

Riffkind call 'astonishes' Arab League
CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League on Wednesday expressed "astonishment" over a British proposal to set up a grouping in the Middle East modelled on the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Arab League Secretary General Enmat Abdul Meguid summoned the British Ambassador in Egypt David Blatherwick to criticise the proposal. "I expressed to him my astonishment over the proposal to set up an OSCE-type organisation in the Middle East because we must first resolve the key problems in the region and establish peace before moving towards more cooperation in the region," Mr. Abdul Meguid said. "We cannot imagine regional cooperation in the Middle East at a time when Israel continues to occupy Arab territory and Iran still occupies islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates in the Gulf," he added.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

Clinton reelected president Democrat president defeats Dole, but faces Republican-controlled Congress

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton, all but written off politically two years ago, won a resounding reelection victory Tuesday but failed to carry his Democratic Party to power in Congress.



Bill Clinton celebrates his reelection as U.S. president with Vice-President Al Gore, First Lady Hillary Clinton and daughter Chelsea in Little Rock, Arkansas (Reuters photo)

Jordan welcomes Clinton reelection

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Wednesday welcomed the reelection of U.S. President Bill Clinton and said he was confident that it would give a boost to the Middle East peace process.

The King, in reply to a question at a joint press conference with Israeli President Ezer Weizman, said he was "very happy" over Mr. Clinton's reelection and described the U.S. president as a "honourable man...whom I have known for years."

The King also expressed confidence that

of the vote this time, apparently avoiding becoming the first two-time plurality president since Woodrow Wilson early this century.

With 81 per cent of election precincts reporting, Mr. Clinton had 50 per cent of the vote to 42 per cent

for Mr. Dole and eight per cent for Ross Perot.

Television networks said the election — which many Americans rated as boring — attracted less than 50 per cent of eligible voters, a record low turnout. The previous low-

est turnout in a presidential election was 50.1 percent in 1988.

Computerised voter tallies by the networks projected Mr. Clinton the winner in 31 of the 50 U.S.

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Weizman visits Jordan, says mutual confidence is foundation for peace King Hussein pays tribute to Israeli president as man of courage, vision

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israeli President Ezer Weizman paid a successful visit to Jordan on Wednesday and agreed with His Majesty King Hussein to maintain continuous contacts to bolster bilateral relations and help advance the peace process.

In comments after talks with the King, Mr. Weizman acknowledged that there were irritants in the Jordanian-Israeli relationship but expressed hope that these would be removed.

Comments by Mr. Weizman as well as King Hussein indicated that the Israeli president's visit here could be a turning point in bilateral ties which had run into a crisis over Israel's unilateral actions in Arab East Jerusalem and its stalling in the implementation of agreements reached with the Palestinians.

Mr. Weizman, on his first official visit to Jordan after the Kingdom and Israel signed a peace treaty in October, drew high praise from the King, who described the Israeli president as a "man of courage and vision...who always had my admiration and respect."

Addressing a joint press conference at the Royal Palace after a round of talks, both leaders emphasised the need to continue on the path towards peace despite obstacles.

"We'll work together in any way we can to bring about just and comprehensive peace" to the entire Middle East "...and to consolidate the foundations already created for peace," said the King.

In an implicit acknowledgement of the problems that the peace process faces after the election of hardliner Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister of Israel in May, President Weizman said the Arabs had to learn

to deal with the Likud Party leader.

"We in Israel know now that we have to deal with Chairman (Yasser) Arafat, and the Arab World has to deal with Prime Minister Netanyahu," said Mr. Weizman.

On the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Israeli leader paid tribute to the assassinated prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, as a "prime force behind the relationship between Jordan and Israel."



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Wednesday receive Israeli President Ezer Weizman and his wife upon their arrival in Amman for a one-day visit (photo by Youssef Allan)

on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli leader paid tribute to the assassinated prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, as a "prime force behind the relationship between Jordan and Israel."

Mr. Weizman was largely spared politically thorny questions during the light-veined press conference in what was seen as an acknowledgement of the non-executive status of the Israeli presidency.

Likewise, Mr. Weizman stayed away from commenting directly on the key problems and spoke with a strong emphasis on the philosophy of peaceful coexistence and stressed that the foundation of peace should be mutual confidence.

He also reiterated that the Israelis were living in a state of fear of Palestinian militancy and said security was foremost in the mind of Israelis at any stage of negotiating peace with the

Arabs.

In that vein, he implied, Syria should seek to build confidence with Israel rather than citing the return of Golan as the key to peace.

An example, he said, was the non-belligerent state of relations between Jordan and Israel even before the signing of the peace treaty. He referred to Aqaba and Eilat, the Jordanian and Israeli port cities on the Red Sea, and the absence of any hostilities there "for the last 50 years..."

Mr. Weizman, who has met Mr. Arafat at his home near Tel Aviv and travelled to Egypt to meet President Hosni Mubarak last month, said he was ready to fly to Syria "in five minutes" if there was Syrian willingness to receive him.

He said Israel, which went on full alert this week against reported threats of attacks by the militant

Saudi Prince Talal due here Saturday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prince Talal Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, one of the most prominent figures involved in development in the Arab World, is expected to arrive here on Saturday for a visit upon the invitation of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, a statement from the Royal Court said Wednesday.

Ciller arrives here Nov. 11

AMMAN (J.T.) — Turkish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller will pay a two-day visit to Jordan beginning on Nov. 11, official sources said Wednesday.

Levy may not attend MENA conference

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy may boycott next week's regional economic conference in Cairo, Israeli radio reported on Wednesday. Senior officials recommended to Mr. Levy during a meeting on Tuesday night that he not attend the Nov. 12-14 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference in Cairo, the radio said, but the foreign minister has not yet made up his mind. According to the radio, the ministry officials argued that Mr. Levy, because of Israel's estrangement from the Arab world, would be unable to make his views heard at the conference.

Arabs hope for peace dividend from Clinton reelection victory

DUBAI (AFP) — Arab states congratulated U.S. President Bill Clinton on Wednesday on his reelection victory and expressed hope it would help revive the faltering Middle East peace process.

Egypt, Jordan, Syria and the Palestinians expected Mr. Clinton to intensify efforts towards promoting lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese now that he is free from the constraints of campaigning.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hailed Mr. Clinton's victory, described him as "a warm friend of Israel" and pledged to cooperate with the United States, the main sponsor of the peace process.

But he dismissed Palestinian expectations that Mr. Clinton would pressure him, saying he was assured the U.S. administration wants "to leave it up to the parties concerned to negotiate the accords that they will have to live with."

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was also happy to see Mr. Clinton serve another four years in the White House, describing him as a "friend of the Palestinian people, a friend of mine."

"I hope the peace process will see progress on all fronts during your new term," Mr. Arafat said in a letter to Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Arafat said the Palestinian-Israeli talks had "seen some difficulties" because Israel "has not implemented

the (self-rule) agreements which were signed in Washington under your supervision."

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Wednesday congratulated Mr. Clinton and said he expects the American leader to push for an overall Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

He hoped the White House would "pursue the efforts begun during your first term towards achieving a fair and comprehensive peace in the region."

"On this occasion, we want to continue the work that we've begun to strengthen bilateral ties in the interest of our peoples... toward accomplishing a just and comprehensive peace in our region," Mr. Assad said.

"I hope that history will record your (future) efforts in establishing a fair and comprehensive peace based on the principle of land for peace, a principle which you yourself have said is the basis of the peace process," Mr. Assad said in a message to Mr. Clinton published by the official news agency SANA. He said that the peace must comply with the "principles on which the peace process was launched (in 1991), the U.S. letters of guarantee (to the Arab and Israeli parties) and statements you made on various occasions, mainly at our meetings in Geneva and Damascus."

The Syrian President said he has "great regard" for Mr. Clinton's efforts during his first term.

An Iraqi official urged Mr.

Ross has not set date to resume mediation

RAMALLAH (AFP) — U.S. envoy Dennis Ross has not yet set a date to resume his mediation of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, the U.S. consul said here Wednesday, as the Palestinians called on Israel to resume the stalled talks.

"I talked to Ross last night, and he still does not have fixed plans to come back," the U.S. Consul General to Jerusalem Edward Abington told journalists in Ramallah.

The Israeli daily Maariv said Mr. Ross had delayed his scheduled return to Israel on Wednesday because no quick agreement was in sight between the two sides over an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron and other autonomy issues.

Mr. Ross left the area last Tuesday after three weeks of marathon mediation of the talks, saying he could not return until after U.S. presidential elections held on Tuesday.

Since his departure, negotiations have fallen off track. The two sides have not met face to face

since last Thursday, instead trading accusations throughout the week of stalling the talks.

Mr. Abington said he met Palestinian President Yasser Arafat twice on Tuesday to discuss "some ideas."

"We are not at the point to say that the negotiations are closing yet. But (an agreement) could be wrapped up very quickly," Mr. Abington said.

Maariv reported that the United States had put forward proposals to bridge the gaps between the two sides over Hebron. The Palestinians turned down the proposals due to the U.S. "phrasing on certain controversial points," the paper said.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat said he called on Israel to resume face-to-face talks over Hebron and other points of contention in a letter to his Israeli counterpart Dan Shomron delivered Tuesday.

"The Israelis are still delaying. Negotiations were supposed to

Bhutto freed from 'protective' custody, vows to fight dismissal

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Pakistan's interim government Wednesday lifted restrictions on the movements of deposed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto but said her husband Asif Ali Zardari remained in custody.

Ms. Bhutto vowed to fight her dismissal and the dissolution of parliament by President Farooq Leghari in court.

"We expect the court to restore the (national) assembly within a month," she told a packed news conference at her first public appearance since Mr. Leghari sacked her early on Tuesday.

She called on Mr. Leghari to resign if he wanted to prove he had not acted out of a "lust for power" and allow the chairman of the senate (upper house) to become acting president.

"I will go to the court expecting justice," she said, noting that the supreme court had reinstated the government of her main political opponent

Nawaz Sharif after it had been dismissed by then President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in 1993.

Ms. Bhutto said she did not know the whereabouts of her husband, former investment minister who was detained on Tuesday, and accused Leghari of arranging his abduction.

"If by nine o'clock tonight my lawyer has not been allowed to see my husband...I'm going to file an FIR (first information report) against Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari for the kidnapping of my husband," said Ms. Bhutto.

Certain restrictions were imposed for 24 hours after Ms. Bhutto was dismissed but they were progressively removed, information minister in the caretaker government, Irshad Ahmad Haqqani, told a news conference.

President Leghari dismissed Ms. Bhutto and her three-year-old government, accusing it of corruption,

(Continued on page 7)

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Jordan Times, Thursday-Friday, November 7-8, 1991

Anti-Taleban planes bomb Afghan capital

KABUL (R) — Two anti-Taleban warplanes bombed Kabul on Wednesday, injuring a teenage girl and destroying two houses.

The three bombs landed in the northeastern residential suburb of Shash Darak at 10.15 a.m. (05:45 GMT).

"There was only one casualty, thanks to God, a young girl who was hit by flying glass," said one bystander.

The bombs collapsed one house in its entirety and badly damaged another.

Another house, which was missed by only 10 metres, was a mess of fractured concrete and twisted metal balconies.

In the remains of the house stood a young girl in shock. Tear tracks showed clearly on her dust-caked cheeks.

Mud bricks from the outer wall of the courtyard were strewn across the road, and from a neighbouring house came the sound of shattered glass being cleared.

Onlookers said they believed the bombs had been dropped by planes belonging to northern leader General Abdul Rashid Dostum. Gen. Dostum is part of the alliance that includes troops loyal to the government ousted from Kabul by the Taleban movement in late September.

The Taleban are fighting alliance forces on a front-line 20 to 25 kilometres north of Kabul and in the remote provinces in the north west of the country.

Ground fighting has stagnated over recent weeks with neither side managing to take a strategic advantage. Despite numerous

attacks by alliance forces, they have not managed to take a band of hills that block the route to Kabul.

Gen. Dostum's bombers have also targeted Kabul airport and a military base in northwest Kabul. They dropped eight bombs on the base on Tuesday.

Taleban fighters said the bombs caused no damage or casualties.

The only casualties in the air raids so far have been three children killed when two bombs fell on a north-western residential area. Seven people were also wounded.

Onlookers at the site of Wednesday's bombs were angry at both Gen. Dostum and the West, whom they blamed for indifference to the continuing bloodshed in Afghanistan.

"Everyone knows where the frontlines are," said Mohammad Kabir, a student who had been at college nearby when the bombs fell. "They need to bomb those areas instead of hitting cities and residential areas."

Mr. Kabir was almost incoherent with anger at the carnage that four years of civil war has wrought in Afghanistan. He blamed foreign countries for much of the damage.

The warring factions in Afghanistan frequently blame Afghanistan's continuing war on foreign interference.

"Why are those countries that call themselves civilised providing help for the factions to further destroy our country?" asked Mr. Kabir.

"They have the ability to stop this war, but it seems they don't want to."

Greenpeace accuses Germany of stalling in Beirut waste case

BEIRUT (AFP) — The environmental group Greenpeace urged the German authorities on Wednesday to recover a shipment of hazardous waste from Beirut port and accused them of "dragging their feet" in the case.

"Greenpeace calls on officials in the environment ministry and the foreign ministry in Bonn not to waste time and to return the 36 containers swiftly to Germany," said Greenpeace spokesman here Fouad Hamdan.

Greenpeace described as "unacceptable" German claims that there was no evidence that the containers, which arrived here over two months ago, were full of unsorted plastic waste only partly contaminated by chemicals.

are insinuating that they would return only the contaminated waste," Mr. Hamdan said. "There is no such thing as a little bit or a bit of contaminated waste. Hazardous waste is waste that has to be returned to sender."

A Lebanese environment ministry report and French experts have said the containers were full of unsorted mixed plastic waste, including polyvinyl chloride which cannot be recycled in Lebanon, as well as laboratory chemicals, pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

German Ambassador Wolfgang Erck said last week that German experts would arrive in Beirut soon to determine whether the waste contains toxic materials that would necessitate the return of the shipment.



BOMBED OUT: An Afghan woman looks out from her house in the capital, Kabul, after it was destroyed by three bombs early Wednesday (Reuters photo)

Iran hopes Pakistan will change Afghan policy

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran, at odds with Pakistan over its backing of the Taleban militia, hopes the dismissal of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government will lead to changes in Islamabad's Afghan policy.

Tension has meanwhile mounted between Tehran and the Afghan militia, which warned neighbouring Iran on Tuesday of possible military action if it does not end its alleged interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Ms. Bhutto, whose government was ousted Monday on corruption charges, "supported the Taleban and implemented policies in Afghanistan funded by Saudi Arabia and directed by Britain and the United States," charged the Tehran Times newspaper.

She "backed the Taleban in order for Pakistan to gain access to Central Asian countries via Afghanistan," it said Wednesday, repeating earlier such charges from Iranian officials.

"But her policies only complicated the problems of the war-torn country, said the English-language daily.

The Iran News, which is close to the government, urged the new government in Islamabad to upgrade the "rather chilly relations into a brotherly one traditionally existing between Iran and Pakistan."

Iranian leaders have complained the Taleban are giving Islam a bad name by enforcing a strict version of Islamic law.

Afghanistan: The intelligence services, the interior ministry or Bhutto?" it complained.

Iran's state radio has said Ms. Bhutto's sacking may provide a potential "solution" to Pakistan's problems, including in foreign policy.

Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Maleki on Wednesday expressed the hope that Iran and Pakistan could resume their "cordial relations" with the new government in Islamabad.

He said Iran's Culture Minister Mustafa Mirsalim would travel to Pakistan soon to discuss promoting links.

"It is true we have diverse opinion with Pakistan over the issue of Afghanistan, but no one can breach the historically good relations" between Tehran and Islamabad, Mr. Maleki added.

Foreign Ministry Director General Mohammad Musavi described Ms. Bhutto's ouster as an "internal matter" but hoped for good relations "during the interim and future government."

Shiite Muslim Iran is hostile to the ultra-orthodox Sunni Muslim Taleban and reacted with apprehension to the militia's takeover of the Afghan capital Kabul in September.

Iranian leaders have complained the Taleban are giving Islam a bad name by enforcing a strict version of Islamic law.

Israel refuses to permit Lebanese to return home

NAQOURA (Agencies) — Israel refused Wednesday to allow the return of two Lebanese families expelled from a border enclave it occupies in southern Lebanon, but agreed to stop further deportations.

Delegates of a five-nation committee from Israel, Lebanon, Syria, the United States and France have been holding non-stop talks on the issue at this coastal border town in southern Lebanon since Tuesday morning.

They failed during the day Tuesday to reach an agreement, but progress on the deportations "issue" was reported at daybreak Wednesday, according to the sources in the Lebanese delegation who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The committee, formed to oversee a U.S.-brokered ceasefire that halted a 16-day Israeli bombing blitz of southern Lebanon in April, was called into session Tuesday to discuss the fate of the two families expelled last month from the border enclave, held by Israel since 1985 as a security zone.

The two families number 21, including 16 children. They were deported by the Israeli-armed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia after a member of each family deserted the militia and left the border enclave.

Lebanon and Syria have demanded the return of the families, but the Israeli representative on the committee has refused, according to the sources.

After more than 15 hours of discussions, an agreement was reached to stop any further deportations, said the sources. No Israeli comment was immediately available.

Israel and its allies have occasionally resorted to selective expulsions of families of alleged anti-Israeli activists.

The committee had originally pledged to give its ruling on the case by Oct. 15, but Lebanon failed to raise the complaint during an Oct. 13 meeting taken up by a previous "complaint" over Israeli shelling that wounded 12 civilians, the officials said.

The panel also discussed a Lebanese complaint over Israeli shelling last weekend that wounded a woman.

Lebanon accused Israel of violating the April 26 ceasefire accord which calls for sparing civilian lives and property.

Leila Hashem, 22, was wounded Sunday in shelling by Israeli artillery.

The bombardment also damaged three houses and a car. Hizbollah said its guerrillas retaliated for "this aggression against civilians" by shelling four SLA militia positions in the central sector of the occupied border zone.

The latest was the third complaint filed by Lebanon to the monitoring committee since it was established Aug. 15 at the U.N. headquarters in the border town of Naqoura.

NEWS IN BRIEF

China confident of peace process

BEIJING (R) — China backs the Middle East peace process and is confident of its eventual success. Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen was quoted on Wednesday as saying, "Although the peace process is a long one, in which problems may emerge, the process will eventually succeed." Mr. Qian told a visiting Israeli delegation according to the official China daily. "The Chinese government and people are much concerned about, and support, the Middle East peace process," the newspaper quoted Mr. Qian as saying. The visiting delegation is led by Uzi Landau, chairman of the foreign affairs and defence committee of the Israeli parliament. The newspaper gave no further details. The Israeli group arrived on Friday for a five-day stay.

China may drop nuclear sale to Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — The Chinese government has suggested it may be willing to cancel the proposed sale of a sensitive nuclear facility to Iran, the Washington Post reported on Wednesday, quoting senior U.S. officials. The newspaper said China had recently told the International Atomic Energy Agency and U.S. nuclear industry officials that its proposed sale of a uranium conversion facility to Iran was off, ostensibly because of Iran's inability to come up with the necessary funds. Iran has said it wants the facility to make fuel rods for its civilian nuclear programme, but the United States has opposed the deal since it would help Iran learn how to produce weapons-grade uranium for nuclear bombs. U.S. officials have made cancellation of the Iran deal an informal condition for approval of U.S. civilian nuclear technology to Beijing, the Post reported. U.S. Undersecretary of State Lynn Davis, in Beijing for arms proliferation talks, told a news conference in Beijing on Tuesday she was encouraged by Chinese efforts to control exports of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, but did not comment specifically on the Iran deal.

Rifkind comments upset Tehran

DUBAI (R) — Iran has said recent remarks by British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind on alleged Iranian links to terrorism made it difficult to normalise relations between the two countries. "The recent baseless allegations by the British Foreign Secretary about Iran's efforts to advance its nuclear programme... and Iran's links to terrorism are rendering the establishment of normal relations between Britain and Iran difficult," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said. The official Iranian news agency IRNA said Mohammadi made his comments on Tuesday. Mr. Rifkind had on a Middle East tour this week criticised Iran for what he described as its "connection with terrorism."

Sultan gives Oman a written constitution

MUSCAT (AFP) — Oman's Sultan Qaboos bin Said gave his country its first written constitution on Wednesday, when he came to power in 1970, formally establishing an absolute monarchy. Under the constitution reported by the official Omani News Agency, "the system of government is a hereditary sultanate" in which succession passes "among the male descendants of Sayed Turki Ben Said Ben Sultan." Mr. Sayed Turki is a descendant of the Bou-Said dynasty which founded the sultanate in 1793.

Ahmad Jibril underwent heart surgery

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Ahmad Jibril, a hardline Palestinian opponent of Yasser Arafat's peace agreement with Israel, underwent heart surgery last month but has fully recovered, Palestinian sources said Wednesday. The sources said Mr. Jibril underwent a "simple and successful" heart operation in Syria and has returned to good health and is back at work. Mr. Jibril, 61, is head of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service will be held for ANTONI OSTRASZ at the Church of the Annunciation (near the Italian Embassy, Jabal Weibdeh) Saturday, November 9th, 4:00 p.m.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 Take Your Pick
14:30 Corrigion Cross
15:30 Feature Film: "The Flying Saucer"
17:00 News Flash
17:01 Feature film (continued)
17:30 Le Monde Est a Vous
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine: Atomes Crochus
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Comedy — Pacific Station
20:01 American Chart Show
20:30 Drama — Material World
21:00 Kung Fu
22:00 News in English
22:25 Feature film: "The Unforgettable"
23:59 Taratata

PRAYER TIMES

04:34 Fair
05:52 (Sunrise) Doha
11:19 Dhur
14:20 Ar
16:46 Nageh
18:05 Kha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church
Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

622366 Anglican Church Tel. 652826 Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331 Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261 St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751 Armenian International Church Tel. 827126 Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328 German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457 The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691 The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295 English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190	Deserts 08:22 Jordan Valley 15:26 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 25 Humidity reading: Amman 51 per cent, Aqaba 55 per cent	Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 63 Fire Brigade 617101 Blood Bank 775121 Highway Police 843402 Traffic Police 896194 Public Security Department 630321 Hotel Complaints 615040 Price Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage Com- plaints 807367 Amman Municipality Com- plaints 787111 Telephone Information (direc- tory assistance) 121 Overseas Calls 011230 Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661193 Jordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111 Water Authority 650100 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615 Electric Power Company Complaints 636331 RJ Flight Information 08, 53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08, 53200	Jabal Amman Maternity 643562 Mallouk, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmehard 647071 Shmeisani Hospital 649131 University Hospital 845845 Al-Musharraf Hospital 687279 The Islamic, Abdali 66612837 Al-Ahli, Abdali 6611626 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7710123 Al-Bashir 77511026 Army, Marka 89161715 Queen Alia Hospital 60224050 Amal Hospital 674155 The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199 ZARQA: Gazi Hospital 091983323 Zarqa National Hospital 091940540 Bin Sina Hospital 091983732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital 091990000 IRRID: Princess Basma Hospital 021275555 Greek Catholic Hospital 02127275 Ibn Al Nafies Hospital 021247100 AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital 031314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA	INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) informa- tion department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 08153200 where it should also be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08153250.	ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights 07:15 Beirut (RJ) 07:15 Moscow (RJ) 10:30 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ) 11:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ) 11:05 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ) 11:15 Rome (RJ) 12:10 Paris (RJ) 12:15 London (RJ) 13:00 Salons, Athens (RJ) 20:10 Cairo (RJ) 20:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 20:20 Larnaca (RJ) 20:30 Jeddah (RJ) 22:00 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ) Other Flights 06:00 Istanbul (TK) 07:35 Beirut, London (BA) 07:45 Beirut (ME) 11:45 Damascus (Q7) 13:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) 15:00 Algiers (AH) 15:00 Riyadh (SV) 16:00 Doha (Q7) 17:15 Doha, Damascus (EK) 21:25 Cairo (MS) 22:50 Tel Aviv (LY) 02:30 Amsterdam (KL) 04:35 Rome (AZ) Royal Wings (RW) Flights 09:50 Marka (RW)	Royal Wings (RW) Flights 09:20 Aqaba (RW) 18:55 Tel Aviv (RW) DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights 06:20 Beirut (RJ) 07:15 Moscow (RJ) 10:30 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ) 11:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ) 11:05 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ) 11:15 Rome (RJ) 12:10 Paris (RJ) 12:15 London (RJ) 13:00 Salons, Athens (RJ) 20:10 Cairo (RJ) 20:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 20:20 Larnaca (RJ) 20:30 Jeddah (RJ) 22:00 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ) Other Flights 06:00 Istanbul (TK) 07:35 Beirut, London (BA) 07:45 Beirut (ME) 11:45 Damascus (Q7) 13:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) 15:00 Algiers (AH) 15:00 Riyadh (SV) 16:00 Doha (Q7) 17:15 Doha, Damascus (EK) 21:25 Cairo (MS) 22:50 Tel Aviv (LY) 02:30 Amsterdam (KL) 04:35 Rome (AZ) Royal Wings (RW) Flights 09:50 Marka (RW)	HUJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. ever Monday Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. ever Monday Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. ever Sunday Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. ever Sunday By Mahmoud I. Mufti Special to the Jordan Times Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan has recently arrived in the field of art, exposing the effects of cross-cultural rela- tionship in a give-and-take relationship with the world. Her Majesty has recently arrived in the field of art, exposing the effects of cross- cultural relationship in a give-and- take relationship with the world. The exhibition is entitled "The Art of the Jordanian Nation" and is a brief prepared by the Foundation (an artist's initiative) in the field of art, exposing the effects of cross-cultural rela- tionship in a give-and-take relationship with the world. Her Majesty has recently arrived in the field of art, exposing the effects of cross- cultural relationship in a give-and- take relationship with the world.
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Ministry of Labour seminar aims to find solutions to unemployment

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour Wednesday said that 75 per cent of the workforce receives fair wages as those employed by the public sector, military or security services receive their pay according to predetermined wage scales.

In a symposium on workers wages, Ministry Secretary General Saleh Tarawneh conceded that private enterprises determine their own wage scales based on such factors as education, experience and other related qualifications.

He added that the ministry encourages employers and workers to reach a consensus regarding wages but, if called upon, would interfere to settle labour disputes.

A new ministry labour law

contains provisions for limiting the allotment of the minimum wage in order to encourage Jordanians to accept jobs currently occupied by foreigners, Dr. Tarawneh said.

As outlined in a report assembled for the symposium, Dr. Tarawneh stated that Jordanians shunning manual work is partly to blame for unemployment and poverty rates in the Kingdom.

He also said that forced migrations to Jordan, occurring five times since 1950, and the global economic recession are factors which aggravate the problem of unemployment.

Currently, there are 300,000 non-Jordanians working in the Kingdom, mostly in agriculture, construction, hotels, restaurants and bakeries.

The number of foreign workers was approximately 6,000 in the 1970's.

Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh Tuesday opened the three-day symposium, organised in conjunction with the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO), emphasising that the government was giving due attention both to the question of fair wages for working nationals as well as that of curtailing unemployment which is estimated at 15 per cent of the potential workforce.

While fixing the minimum wage one must consider the cost of living index which, according to the Central Bank of Jordan, has risen by 16 points from 1993 until August of this year, the minister said.

He said that, according to Ministry of Social Development categorisation standards, families are defined as falling within the category of abject poverty if they earn a combined JD61 a month or less and according to a last year's report issued from the Social Security Corporation 24 per cent of the nation's workers earn less than JD100 each month.

Mr. Shakhaneh said that the symposium aims at creating an acceptable formula for fixing the minimum wage and that the ALO has offered to aid in the resolution of this concern.

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Jordan opens fair in West Bank

RAMALLAH (Agencies) — A trade fair, the first of its kind, was held by Jordan in the Palestinian territories with 106 Jordanian companies displaying their wares.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat Wednesday opened the fair, saying that it was clear proof of expanding economic relations between Jordan and Palestine.

"Our peoples are twin brothers and [our] relationship must be strengthened on all fronts," the president proclaimed.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheeb, who headed a Jordanian team to the opening ceremony, was quoted as saying that "the fair was a great opportunity for Jordan to

get close to Palestine in all aspects, especially politically and economically."

The fair includes displays of electric appliances, furniture, textiles, foodstuffs and construction materials.

Deputy Director of the Palestinian Commerce Ministry Samir Huleila expressed his country's anticipation in establishing free trade with Jordan.

Jordanian exports to Palestine last year totalled \$40 million with an additional \$23 million in goods informally brought by visitors into the Palestinian territories, Mr. Huleila said.

According to sources in Palestine, Jordan imports \$20 million worth of Palestinian products annually.

The ceremony was

attended by 150 Jordanian business people in addition to hundreds of Palestinian business people and industrialists from both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, in an annual international fair in Baghdad, grouping 15 foreign countries, 73 Jordanian firms are displaying their products.

These include foodstuffs, plastic and leather products, clothing, medicines, chemical, agricultural and construction materials and fibres used in packing and packaging.

The fair was visited Wednesday by Iraqi Minister of Trade Mohammad Mahdi Saleh who inspected the Jordanian contribution.

The Jordanian delegation

to the Baghdad International Fair was headed by the Chairman of the Amman Chamber of Industry Khaldoun Abu Hassan who had last week announced that his delegation was carrying a gift of medicine and food to the Iraqi people.

This year, Jordan's trade protocol with Iraq stipulates that the Kingdom might sell Iraq \$150 million worth of goods and \$70 million worth of services and, according to officials, the 1997 trade protocol is not expected to deviate from that of 1996.

The fair will continue until Nov. 14.

Jordan looks forward to boosted peace efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government Wednesday formally welcomed the results of the U.S. presidential elections, reinstating President Bill Clinton for an additional four-year term.

Information Minister Marwan Munasher said in a statement that "at the same time we congratulate Mr. Clinton on his victory we also look forward to Washington's continued and enhanced role towards stimulating the peace process and the establishment of peace on all Arab-Israeli tracks."

"It is clear that U.S. efforts will be intensified under President Clinton's new term in office as he will be allowed more freedom to

act upon his concerns for peace," the statement said.

Jordanian Ambassador to the United States Faysal Tarawneh, said that the president's second term in office will no doubt have a greater beneficial influence on the peace process than ever before.

"President Clinton's victory means the continuation of the peace process, especially as he is fully cognizant of the various stages in this process. [He] will be empowered to build upon the achievements he has effected towards peace building between Israel and the Arab countries," Dr. Tarawneh said.

United States Embassy Official Spokeswoman

Marcelle Wahbeh considered that President Clinton will pursue close cooperation with His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian government towards stimulating the peace process, the implementation of all provisions of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and in supporting the Jordanian economy.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Ms. Wahbeh said that the U.S. administration will continue to work with the Jordanian government to boost the Kingdom's economic development and achieve higher economic growth rates as this is, she said, an essential component to the peace process.

Describing U.S.-Jordanian

Palestinian delegation visits RSS

AMMAN (Petra) — A Palestinian delegation representing the Ministry of Industry Wednesday visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to discuss scientific research cooperation and expert exchanges within the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement.

Acting RSS Vice President Seifeddin Maaz briefed the delegation members on the society's role and services, the nature of its industrial research work and its implementation of human resource training.

The Palestinian delegation toured the RSS departments and studied its future plans.

Earlier the delegation, led by Ministry Under-Secretary Jawad Naji, visited the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) where they listened to a briefing by Director Ali Nasrallah regarding the corporation's achievements and future plans.

He stated that the VTC is implementing a project aimed at trade reclassification and job descriptions regarding certain professions as well as vocational training programmes.

Dr. Naji described Jordanian and Palestinian vocational training systems as similar, however he stated that his delegation is attempting to benefit from Jordan's experience in the field.

Under Israeli occupation, Palestinian workers have been deprived of advanced technical skills and training in industrial fields.

The Israeli government assembles Palestinian youths to work mainly in agriculture and construction.

Kabariti, Shneikat review policy document

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Wednesday met with Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat to review the broadlines of an agricultural policy document, endorsed earlier by the higher agricultural council, previous to its submission to the Council of Ministers for approval.

This plan includes procedures which aim at self-sufficiency for the Kingdom including: an increase in food production, steering agricultural production to conform to local market needs as well as to that of countries which import Jordanian agricultural products, means for increasing agricultural exports and

how to better exploit modern technology in environmental protection.

Also reviewed at the meeting, held at the Ministry of Agriculture, were plans for planting trees to mark Arbor Day next year, increasing forests and "green areas" to fight desertification and encouraging local farmers to grow grains through the provision of superior seeds, fertilisers and farm equipment at reasonable cost.

Dr. Shneikat outlined the ministry's current project for developing highland regions under a programme, financed by the World Food Programme which last month approved of \$16 million to finance the undertaking over the next five years.

He said that the ministry has succeeded in cultivating 290,000 dunums of land around the King Talal Dam and in the Zarga River basin as well as lands within the Jerash, Balqa, Mafrqa and Amman governorates in a programme which had commenced operations in 1987.

Dr. Shneikat briefed the prime minister regarding plans for developing badia regions in Jordan, dams built there to collect rain water and artesian wells to provide water for the residents there.

Other agricultural projects within the Karak and Tafleh governorates were also reviewed at the meeting.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Speaker meets with Jordanian National Bloc

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'ad Hayel Srour Wednesday received representatives of the Jordanian National Bloc to discuss coming elections for parliament speaker. Leader of the bloc Jamal Khreisha expressed his appreciation for Mr. Srour's work in the past two years.

Jordan, Algeria sign protocol

ALGIERS (Petra) — Jordan and Algeria Wednesday signed two protocol agreements covering admission of Algerian patients into Jordanian hospitals as well as medical cooperation between the two countries. The agreements were signed by Minister of Health Aref Bataineh and, for Algeria, President of the Interim National Council Abdul Qader Ben Saleh.

Ministry meets with World Bank representative

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Ghaleb Abu Orab Wednesday met with visiting Chief of the World Bank Water, Agriculture and Environment Department, Saleh Darghouth. The two sides discussed measures undertaken by the ministry following World Bank recommendations.

Jordan, Indonesia initial maritime agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Indonesia Wednesday initiated an agreement on maritime transport cooperation and announced that the agreement will be formally signed in Amman during Indonesian President Suharto's visit to Jordan on Nov. 11. The agreement provides for exchange of information and technical expertise as well as the intensification of contacts between transport-related companies and institutions in the two countries. It also outlines either country's provision of arrangements for docking vessels, preferential treatment and facilitating procedures at their respective harbours. Under the terms of the agreement Jordan and Indonesia will exchange expertise, conduct joint training of transport officials in specialised institutes and organise a cargo transportation partnership. The agreement was initiated by Ministry of Transport Secretary General Issa Naser Ayoub and the Indonesian Director of Maritime Transport H. Hari Jogi.

Queen to open 'Art In Cultural Transmission' exhibition

By Mahmoud I. Mufti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor today opens a travelling art exhibition entitled "Art In Cultural Transmission," at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts on Jabal Weibdeh.

According to a brief prepared by the Gallery, the concept behind the exhibition, organised by the Arctic Foundation (an artist's initiative), is to emphasise the effects of cross-cultural relations manifested in the fields of art, exposing the cultural influences exerted between different parts of the world in a give-and-take relationship.

The exhibition's artworks, first displayed in Eindhoven, Holland, have recently arrived in Jordan to be displayed for the next three weeks (ending November 30) before leaving for Sharjah in the UAE, and then to Jakarta in Indonesia. Twenty-four artists, most of them from Holland are participating in this exhibition. Others are from Greece, Lebanon, Curacao (a Caribbean island under Dutch rule), Chile, Spain, Iraq, Vietnam and Indonesia.

The aims and goals of the travelling exhibition include the introduction to several non-Western countries the idea of cross-cultural relations and the provision of the opportunity for discussions with the artists of these countries about the results and the ideas of the workshop that gave rise to the exhibits.

In each of the countries hosting the exhibition, a local artist will be selected to display his/her works with the other exhibits, with no restrictions on the style or artistic genre of the work, though most of the works tend to comprise large

prints (etchings, lithographs, etc.) and installations. The Gallery's brief adds that "the idea of the workshop was to create new forms of art that have elements from different cultural backgrounds that cannot be categorised only according to Western or non-Western standards."

The underlying theme is that the exhibition serve as a melting pot of cultures, aiding in changing mentalities along with artistic expression, with increased mutual tolerance between artists and the public being the envisioned and hoped-for outcome. Indeed, the main goal was to hold the workshop under the motto: "We want to learn from each other."

A press conference was held this morning and attended by the Jordan National Gallery's Executive Director HRH Princess Wijdan Ali, the exhibition's curators for the Middle East, Monikith Said and Bert Hermens, and gallery staff. The Princess affirmed that: "The idea of this exhibition is actually quite unusual and new, in that it involves an exhibition from the West visiting non-Western regions. But it should be noted that contemporary modern art is not specific solely to the Western art-scene. With the advent of sophisticated global communication, countries of all cultural, sociological, philosophical and creative orientations have been able to learn and be influenced by one another. It is sometimes the case that artists of the so-called 'Third World' are actually manifesting more courage and innovation in their artistic undertakings than their long-established and experienced counterparts in the West."

Asked about the exhibition's relevance to Jordanian society, the Princess said "There has cer-

tainly been increased interest in art in general among lay members of the Jordanian public, though we are particularly interested in contributing, through activities of this sort, to the nurturing of the creative element among local school children, of both public and private schools; their artistic sensibilities at an earlier age are particularly receptive to new ideas that can hopefully invigorate their own sense of the aesthetic."

The gallery's statement added that: "It is important to stress the fact that the artists working with the Arctic Foundation do not see art as a decoration of life and houses. It is about changing the mentalities of both Western and non-Western cultures to accept to 'give and take' and experience in a philosophical method with the ideas and concepts of other cultures."

Last year's visiting exhibition (April 6 - May 1st, 1995), also at the National Gallery, was highly successful. Entitled "The Right to Hope," it deeply moved concerned Jordanians by highlighting the need — through artistic depictions and installations — to transcend traditional political, geographic and demographic borders in an attempt to rekindle the 'human element' which so often seems to be marginalised through the ravages of war, rampant poverty and other conditions of mass affliction.

On Sunday, a colloquium will take place at the gallery with the attendance of some of the exhibition's visiting artists, curators, and local artists. Additionally, Monday will witness the opening of personal art exhibitions for the two aforementioned curators at the Riwaq Al-Balqa' gallery in Fuheis.

What's Going On

FILMS	EXHIBITIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Dias Contadas" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" at the American Centre, on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. "The History of Art" (with commentary in Arabic by Adnan Al Sharif) at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photograph exhibition "Al Aqsa Uprisings" by Khalid Al Zaghawi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 22. Works by twenty four artists (from Iraq, Holland, Lebanon, Vietnam, Spain, Greece, Curacao, Indonesia, Russia, and Chile) at the Royal Society of Fine Art, Jabal Weibdeh until Nov. 30. Photo exhibition by Basma Asfour entitled "Doubles Regards" at the French Cultural Centre, until Nov. 28. Works by Maha Abu Ghosh at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 16. Exhibition of works by Zurich-based Jordanian artist Nabil Shehadeh at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh. Also displaying works by Jordanian artist Mohammad Nasrallah and works by contemporary artists, until Nov. 13. "Timeless Weaving and New Creations — Home Furnishings and Accessories" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle, until Nov. 10. Exhibition of "Visual Forms" by Abdul Latif Al Smoodi at Baladan Art Gallery, Gardens street, until Nov. 15.
<p>CONCERT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance of Polish classical music at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:00 p.m. 	
<p>REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A service of Remembrance will be held at the Church of the Redeemer on Saturday, Nov. 9, at 6:00 p.m. 	
<p>EXHIBITION / SALE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition / sale of antiques, crafts and old engravings and photographs of Jerusalem and the Holy Land at Um El Kundum, Airport Road, off the Arabian Horse Club on Friday. 	

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Few come forward for Zaire protection force

NAIROBI (R) — Africa urged the United Nations to arrange a "neutral" protection force to come to the rescue of a million abandoned refugees in Zaire, but volunteers for the force appeared sparse Wednesday.

As the world squabbled over who should take the initiative, 1.2 million Rwandan and Burundian Hutu refugees spent another night out of reach of outside help, their whereabouts unknown.

The fighting between Zairean troops and Tutsi rebels which first sent them fleeing camps that were home for two years seemed to have calmed but access to the refugees remained impossible.

At a summit in Nairobi Tuesday, leaders from eight east and central African states — Zaire refused to attend — deflected responsibility for any refugee rescue mission.

The summit requested the U.N. Security Council to take urgent measures to ensure the establishment of the safe corridors and temporary sanctuaries by deploying a neutral force, their final communiqué said.

Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda,

Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Cameroon and the Organisation of African Unity also called for a ceasefire in the two-week war and urged refugees to go home.

Eritrean President Isayas Alewke told Reuters Wednesday: "The first step is to identify sites for the temporary sanctuaries and again see details of the safe corridor concept put on paper."

"Next would be the deployment of the neutral forces to protect the temporary sanctuaries and the corridors."

Isayas said it should take days rather than weeks to get the force into Zaire.

International organisations and world leaders have pleaded for urgent action to assist the refugees and ultimately get them to go home, but wrangling over whose task it is continues.

France Tuesday pushed for a security council resolution that would authorise intervention into eastern Zaire, but the United States and Britain appeared hesitant.

Summit analysts noted that Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu agreed the deployment of a military force in eastern Zaire, only hours after his foreign min-

ister, Anastase Gasana, said in Brussels his government opposed any such force.

But the analysts said the key word was "neutral."

Rwanda's Tutsi army, accused by Zaire of fighting in the war, does not consider France neutral, accusing it of helping Rwanda's Hutu soldiers flee after they committed genocide.

The Hutu soldiers in Zaire are a well-armed force. A U.N. report obtained Tuesday showed that the Hutus had been amply supplied with arms from Europe and South Africa, with organisers of the illicit traffic based in Kenya.

Paris has pushed hardest for intervention in Zaire but does not want to act alone. It is finding its European partners cool despite their positive public statements, diplomats say.

The African leaders said the "sub-region" — presumably east and central Africa — was ready to contribute but did not say African troops would be offered, as France has suggested.

The Security Council met late Tuesday to discuss Africa's worst crisis since the one that spawned it, the 1994 genocide in Rwanda of up to a million Tutsis and

others.

The snag for all who have dealt with the post-genocide crisis in Central Africa is that the vast bulk of the Hutu refugees refuse to go home and say they would rather die.

Another diplomatic initiative takes place Wednesday on the French Riviera where U.N. special mediator Raymond Chretien will meet Zaire's convalescing President Mobutu Sese Seko whose long absence after Swiss surgery has left his country divided.

Zaire's army and government are trading accusations and anti-Tutsi riots have shaken the capital Kinshasa, 1,600 kilometres west of the fighting.

Aid workers fear that disease or hunger will take a terrible toll among the refugees, some of whom have been on the move for two weeks since local Zairean Tutsis took up arms after east Zairean authorities told them to leave their native land.

Red Cross workers collected hundreds of bodies from recent fighting in the east Zaire city of Goma but said they could not reach Mugunga, until recently the world's biggest refugee camp.



Two rebels, one holding a magazine with a picture of Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko, stand guard at a checkpoint in the town of Goma, Zaire. Fighting between the rebels and Zairean government troops has caused hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees to flee their camps (Reuters photo)

Renegade rebels inducted into Cambodian army

PAILIN, Cambodia (AFP) — More than 2,500 members of a renegade Khmer Rouge faction formally ended their links with the guerrilla movement here Wednesday by joining the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF).

A total of 2,507 guerrillas were inducted into the army at a ceremony presided over by co-ministers of defence Tea Banh and Tea Chamrath and renegade faction leader Leng Sary, the former Khmer Rouge deputy premier.

"Today's ceremony is very important for the entire country," Tea Banh told more than 1,000 of the guerrillas who attended the ceremony while their comrades stood guard against possible attacks from the dwindling number of fighters remaining loyal to the group's "hardline" central leadership.

"Our dream is complete," he said. "The breakaway faction ... joining the legal government will make everything better and this is in line with our constitution which says that Cambodia is indivisible."

Wednesday's ceremony here in Pailin near the Thai border in northwest Cambodia, the base of former Khmer Rouge Division 415, is to be followed Thursday by a similar one further north in Phnom Malai, the base of Division 450.

The two divisions, commanded by longtime senior Khmer Rouge officers, Ei Chhien and Sok Pheap, were the core of the renegade faction led by Leng Sary that split with the hardliners in August, formed the Democratic National Union Movement and began negotiations with the government.

The two ceremonies effectively end the semi-autonomy the two divisions have enjoyed while negotiations with the government were continuing.

King Norodom Sihanouk granted Leng Sary's request for a pardon in September, but negotiations then reportedly stalled over the renegades' demands for several senior military positions.

However, after some division commanders objected to the continued delays and unconditionally threw their lot in with the government, Ei Chhien and Sok Pheap, the remaining hold-outs, capitulated.

A peace agreement with the two was finally reached late Saturday and announced Sunday with much fanfare.

Thousands of government-issue uniforms were distributed Wednesday to the former guerrillas, who turned over to the government 1,167 small arms and nine tanks and sought to allay concern that they wanted to become a political force.

"Our movement has no desire to found any political party for the coming elections in 1997 and 1998," Ei Chhien said, adding that he and his troops were not taking sides with either of Cambodia's two main political parties.

"We support all political parties which have the desire to reach national reconciliation, National Union and an end to the war," he said.

About 100 journalists were helicoptered in from Phnom Penh to observe the event along with seven monks from the nearby city of Battambang who blessed the new government soldiers as well as their uniforms.

The new uniforms, replacing their former Chinese-style Khmer Rouge kit, were a big hit with the former guerrillas.

"We're very happy with these uniforms because they are a symbol of happiness," said one inductee, who complained however that the trousers were too big.

Meanwhile, Cambodian co-premier Hun Sen Wednesday predicted Khmer Rouge hardliners would be wiped out by mid-1997.

"I think by half (mid-) 1997, Anlong Veng will be finished," the second prime minister told Reuters.

Anlong Veng, located near the Thai border, is the jungle base of hardline guerrillas loyal to Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot.

Hun Sen said Khmer Rouge under dissident leader Leng Sary, who broke with hardliners in August, were integrated with government forces this week.

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Indonesian candidate says Suharto should retire

JAKARTA (AFP) — An Indonesian politician who is a close confidante of President Suharto has apparently called for the president to retire, reports said Wednesday.

"We have to keep in mind that in 1998 Pak Harto (Suharto) will be 77 years old. It would not be wise of us if we did not allow him to enjoy his old age," research and technology Minister Jusuf Habibie said in the Media Indonesia Daily.

President Suharto has been in power since 1966 and has run six consecutive presidential terms unopposed.

Habibie, a close confidante of the president and rumoured to be a vice presidential candidate, praised Mr. Suharto's 30 years of leadership, but said younger leaders were ready to take positions of power.

"Why should we depend on one generation," he was quoted as saying in the Jakarta post.

The 1,000 member upper house, the people's consultative assembly, which elects the president every five years, is due to meet in March 1998.

Habibie said a person's personal capacity becomes increasingly limited as he ages and those in the 1945 generation, who fought for Indonesian independence from the Dutch, were also becoming restricted in their physical capacity.

"That is only human... They won't be the same as when they were 40 or 50," he said in the post.

Habibie is widely believed to be a front runner for the vice-presidential position.

Other prominent figures on the rumoured short-list for vice presidency are information minister and head of the ruling Golkar party Harmoko and the state minister for national development planning Ginanjar Kartasasmita.

Pakistan interim government removes restrictions on Bhutto's movement

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's interim government late Wednesday lifted restrictions on the movement of deposed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto but said her husband Asif Ali Zardari would remain in custody.

Information minister in the caretaker government, Irshad Ahmad Haqqani, told reporters all restrictions on Ms. Bhutto's movements were lifted, but her husband would remain in custody.

The former prime minister had been held in "protective custody" in her residence since she was ousted early Tuesday. Her husband was reportedly detained in Lahore and then moved to the capital.

"Mr. Zardari is in protective custody," Mr. Haqqani said, adding that at the moment no charges had been laid and no "regular inquiry" was under way against him.

"But under due process we will see what emerges and we will proceed accordingly," he said.

The statement was a clear indication that Mr. Zardari, whose whereabouts were not disclosed by the minister, faced possible investigation.

Mr. Zardari has been accused of corruption and

taking kickbacks during Ms. Bhutto's three years in government. For the past two months he has been investment minister.

He has always denied the charges, saying they are propaganda by the opposition to defame the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) government.

Mr. Haqqani said Ms. Bhutto would be allowed to stay in the prime minister's house for 10 days but be barred from using the premises for "party meetings or processions."

Outside the residence Zia (Ms. Bhutto) is "free to carry out the political activities and go wherever she likes," said Mr. Haqqani, a former newspaper editor.

Meanwhile, at least 20 people were detained and several injured as the Pakistan People's Party held a demonstration Wednesday to protest against the ousting of a day earlier of Ms. Bhutto.

The PPP members chanted "Benazir innocent" and marched in two small groups to parliament but were quickly dispersed near the building by police.

Later a third group of about 100 PPP youth came out from the PPP central secretariat shouting "Leghari dog", referring to

President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, who sacked Ms. Bhutto.

Baton-wielding police pounced on the group and threw a few teargas shells at them as they torched an effigy of Mr. Leghari, a former prominent PPP leader until his accession to the presidency in November 1993.

The demonstrators retaliated by throwing rocks at police as they ran back into the PPP office. Witnesses said some were beaten by police and about a dozen were taken away.

Windows in the PPP office, located in a one-way street, were broken by flying objects hurled by demonstrators and police.

Some six people with minor injuries were treated in hospital with one — reporter Zafar Hashmi of local Urdu daily Pakistan — receiving three stitches for a head injury caused by glass shards, doctors said.

Witnesses said police stopped press photographers and cameramen from recording the PPP demonstration near the parliament building.

The detained PPP workers shouted "long live Benazir" as they were taken away in police vans from the scene.

Film divides N. Irish political opinion

BELFAST (R) — Opponents of a film about Michael Collins, who led Ireland's fight for independence, said Tuesday it could lead impressionable young Catholics to back IRA guerrillas fighting British rule of the province.

"My greatest worry is for the young nationalists who will watch it and see a glossed-up 'fight for our Ireland,'" pro-British loyalist politician David Ervine told Reuters.

The \$28 million Hollywood drama, starring Liam Neeson, will be on premier in the Irish capital, Dublin, Wednesday and Friday will be screened across British Northern Ireland where passions run deep over the future of rule from London.

Jonathan Stephenson, chairman of the Nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, which shares Collins' goal of a united Ireland and is Catholic-backed, urged protestants not to pillory it.

"I don't mind if 'Michael Collins' has been spiced up as long as the film conveys the central message about the man — that he was a revolutionary who knew when to stop killing and

start negotiating," he told Reuters.

Eddie McIlwaine, show-business writer with the Belfast Telegraph said he expected it to do "good business" across the sectarian divide because Collins was a charismatic figure even if people disagreed about his politics and methods.

"And of course Liam Neeson is a home-town boy," added McIlwaine about the title-role star who was born in Ballymena, County Antrim 40 miles (55 kms) north of Belfast.

The drama, released at a sensitive period in the search for a permanent peace, has been attacked in parts of the British media as one-sided and anti-British but director Neil Jordan insists it is an accurate dramatic reconstruction.

Ervine said it was tainted by historical inaccuracies such as the detonation of a lethal car bomb some 70 years before the modern Irish Republican Army employed the devastating tactic on the streets of Northern Ireland.

The film deals with Collins' seminal role in the war of independence and ensuing civil war after he

signed an Anglo-Irish treaty in December 1921 that formalised the partitioning of Ireland.

"It does tend to extrapolate the violence from then to now and give it a legitimacy that doesn't exist," said Ervine, who is a leader of the Progressive Unionist Party, the political arm of one of the IRA's foes, the banned Ulster volunteer force.

The vast majority of protestants would probably not watch the film, he said.

"The film is a big propaganda coup for republicanism," said Sam Malcolmson, a spokesman for the disabled police officers' association some of whose members lost limbs in IRA booby-traps and ambushes.

"I would imagine it could possibly sway young people towards republicanism."

Neeson strongly defended the film in a television BBC interview.

"We've told the story honestly, we feel it's historically accurate, given the broad context. We're not making a drama-documentary, it's a very complex situation between 1916 and 1922."

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Clinton's round two

THE BILL Clinton, who addressed the American people yesterday after winning a second term as head of the only superpower in the world, was conspicuously different from the Clinton who four years ago brought the Democrats back to the White House for the first time in 12 years. The victory speech that Clinton gave after defeating his Republican challenger Bob Dole reflected the tilt to the right that the younger liberal Democrat had taken. In the 1996 victory speech, Clinton stressed the need for preserving family values, ensuring better schooling, reducing dependence on the welfare system and expressing affinity towards the religious establishment.

For an America that has been witnessing one conservative tide after another, these are issues of vital importance that go beyond the partisan orientations of the country's two major political parties. Having won himself the vote to lead America into the 21st century, Clinton sought to present himself as non-partisan leader, willing to pool all resources to continue the economic recovery witnessed in his first term and to unite America around the goal of achieving better life for all Americans.

This continuity in domestic policy will be matched, probably even reinvigorated on the foreign policy front, especially towards the Middle East. The president's preoccupation with the election campaign had an obvious impact on the vigour with which his administration had worked to achieve its policy objectives in the region. But the new mandate which Clinton has now won will free him from the electoral considerations that tied his hands in the past few months as the U.S. is expected to resume its assertive role in the peace process. Over the past four years, the administration had amassed and put together a wealth of experience and a highly expert team which should be able to identify what needs to be done to push the peace process forward. Even though some changes can be expected from the fresh administration, the expert team will essentially build on the achievements made so far and attempt to avoid the pitfalls as it renegees the regional parties in efforts to salvage the troubled endeavours for bringing about a comprehensive settlement in the region.

Despite the close links which the president has with Israel, his recognition that U.S. interests are better served under conditions of peace and stability in this sensitive part of the world might push Washington towards putting the needed pressure on Israel to break the current deadlock. Clinton has acknowledged that commitment to the agreements signed among the parties to the peace process is the key to progress. It is Israel's failure to honour its commitments to the Palestinians that have triggered the alarm in the region. A Clinton armed with a new mandate can tell Israel that much.

As for Jordan, the reelection of the president can only ensure the strengthening of the ties the two countries have built during the last four years. President Clinton has repeatedly stressed the importance of the Kingdom in the region. He has recognised that the political and economic stability of Jordan is essential for the stability of the whole Middle East. Furthermore, the president knows that in this country under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, the United States a trusted friend whose moderation, openness, democratic orientation and commitment to peace are valuable assets. It is those assets coupled with President Clinton's reelection that will greatly contribute to a reinvigorated partnership between Jordan and the U.S. towards building a stable, better Middle East.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ISRAELI PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman's one day visit to Jordan Wednesday serves as a final attempt to reduce tension between the Kingdom and Israel following the Netanyahu government's illegal measures in Jerusalem and its failure to live up to the spirit of peace with Jordan and Palestine, according to Mohammad Kharrub, a writer for Al Ra'i. While Mr. Weizman is intent, through his contacts with the Egyptian, Jordanian and Palestinian leaders, to defuse tension, his government is showing persistence in pursuing a policy aimed at escalating tension in Palestine and along the ceasefire lines with Lebanon and Syria, said the writer. There is no doubt that the Israeli president will hear from Amman a clear statement rejecting the present Israeli policies on the various tracks because Jordan is keen on achieving a comprehensive peace although the president is a figure head with no powers over his government's policies, added the writer. He said that the Israeli government has consented to the visit as it is keen on maintaining good ties with its eastern neighbour, but such ties can never improve if Israel does not implement the provisions of its peace agreements with the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians. Observers believe that Mr. Netanyahu will not change his stand until the dust settles in the American presidential elections and until the new president at the White House has been known and his position openly declared, added the writer. But, he said, the Middle East cannot wait for ever, and return to square one in this region is a horrible idea indeed.

View from Academia

Overschooling — a case of indifference or burnt out interest?

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeli

IT IS indeed puzzling, and sad, that some of our more privileged university students — "privileged" in the sense that they have been to excellent schools, have had excellent teachers, have been challenged, have sharp intellectual abilities, have had it all, in other words — do not put their potential and exceptional abilities to good use. Ironically, many of them spend the four college years performing as poorly, indifferently and disinterestedly as the weakest students. Such a peculiar phenomenon is worth looking into.

We are talking here about a minority of students, but their number seems to be on the increase. In a class of thirty students, they are in the neighbourhood of five. They do not prepare before they come to class, they do not pay much attention in class or take part in class discussions except when called upon, and they write the bare minimum in exams. Once in a blue moon, they exert an effort and express themselves impressively and profoundly. It is during these infrequent moments that you discover their intelligence and exceptional potential. Most of the time, however, they either fail exams or do well enough just to pass.

They appear to have no enthusiasm for learning, no energy, no curiosity about anything, no excitement; they look much like a 89-year-old retired person who has no zeal for anything anymore and is submissively, passively, and resignedly awaiting God's mercy. They appear — and one cannot think of a better way to put it — so burnt out, so saturated (as it were) with learning that they cannot absorb anything anymore.

This is indeed a shame, for much can be achieved during the four years with these students. Their intellectual abilities are so advanced and their command of language (the vehicle of thought and expression) so good that one can reach with them horizons and frontiers which cannot be reached with students who have lesser abilities and potential. One can boldly go with them "where no man has gone before." They have the potential to excel and graduate as precious commodities for which society is in dire need.

As a phenomenon, such students are puzzling indeed. They seem to go against the rule which many of us in the world of teaching and education know and cherish: the more rigorous and challenging the education (experience teaches us) the sharper one becomes and the more eager to learn and take part one turns out to be. The more one is

pressured, stimulated and pushed against the wall, the tougher, more determined, more alert, more enthusiastic, more challenging one becomes. When one gets used to pressure, challenge, hard thinking, hard work, one gets addicted to it; it gets into one's blood. But such is not the case with these students.

Why? Maybe the schools they have gone to prior to college, which are presumed to be challenging, competitive, and demanding, privileged and excellent are not so. Who knows. Some may attribute the reason to the unchallenging classroom situation at the college level. To some extent, this is true — except that there are many exciting classes, with much exciting study material, in which such students are not excited.

One may also attribute the reason to the cultural environment at large. To some extent, this is true again, for you do not feel that people in our culture are generally excited about what they do or that they find what you do exciting. But are not individuals supposed to shape the environment and set the tone? If the overall environment is boring, does it really have to affect us? Is it necessarily as automatically contagious as the flu virus?

One may blame the lack of diligence on the part of these students on the age factor. After all, such students are adolescents who have problems of all sorts.

I must admit that the case of these students is a puzzling phenomenon indeed, and that its true causes are not easily determined.

It seems to me, however, that part of the problem (and this is a guess more than anything else) is that these students have had too much schooling of the same type. There is the kindergarten, first; there is primary school; there is secondary school; and then there is college. All non-stop. I do not mean to say here (I should hasten to add) that these students have been too much pressured or challenged. No. What I mean is that they have had too much of the same thing without a break. Maybe things are too monotonous, too repetitious.

I once asked a student who belongs to this type why she was not taking part in class discussions. We were doing "Pride and Prejudice" in a novel course, and most students were really excited about the novel. Her answer was: "I do not find anything interesting in it. It is like all of the novels I have taken." I asked her the same question in another

semester in another class. I got the same answer. For some students, schooling is exciting. The more there is of it, the more determination there is on their part to do well and excel. But for the students I have been describing, it seems that they suffer from overschooling. They have been eating kenafa for so long that they have come to see it as anticlimactic at best. There is no appetite for it, no taste, no desire and no appreciation.

One thing that is missing in our schooling system, both at the public and private level, is the absence of periodic breaks. People enter kindergarten to find themselves in college, without feeling or knowing how they got there. In other societies, people take time off to do different things. They take a year off in primary school to spend it in a foreign country; they take a year after secondary school to intern or train somewhere; they take a year or more during college to work at some interesting (or even uninteresting) place.

We need something of the sort. Schooling is not a marathon through which you have to run competitively, trying to outrun everyone. Take a summer off to Agaba to study marine life; take a year off during college to work as a tour guide, a receptionist at a hotel, an employee at a company, a worker on a farm. Spend a year abroad. Do anything to change the scene. Travel and look around for a few months, if you can afford it. Explore an Arab or foreign country. Do volunteer work at a local ministry or department.

The change of scene is always healthy, no matter what. But a change of scene may give one the opportunity to compare (work vs. studies, studies here vs. studies somewhere else, etc.), and it may give the opportunity to find out what one wants to study. Most of our students (as we all know) do not choose the subjects they study on the basis of solid convictions. Many have no idea whatsoever about what they are getting into. A break may enable them to reflect on what they study, to make up their minds about what they should study.

Overschooling, in the sense explained above, can be a problem to many. I do not have to finish my bachelor's degree at the age of 21-22, my master's at the age of 23-24, and my Ph.D. at the age of 25-26 (which is what most people in our society aspire). Let's take some breaks in between, and explore what is available outside the schools and colleges.

LETTERS

Column for art

To the Editor:

I HAVE had high regard for your newspaper since the day it first reached the newsmen. Furthermore, I admire your and your colleagues' continuous efforts to improve the newspaper, whether in the editorial content or production and otherwise.

In this context, I would like to congratulate you on the introduction of a new, well-written column on plastic arts in Jordan by Mahmoud Al Mufli. The column, with its objectivity and clarity, will no doubt contribute towards strengthening and promoting the art movement in Jordan.

Mohammad Rafiq Lahham,
Artistic Adviser,
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities,
Head of Membership Committee,
Association of Plastic Artists.

Victimising the victims

To the Editor:

I would like to thank Waleed M. Sa'di for his excellent article on Iraq "Resolutions on Iraq should affect only the guilty" (Jordan Times, Nov. 4, 1996). The logic of it is certainly overdue: telling the world and those concerned in the U.N. Security Council that all that the sanctions against Iraq are achieving is victimising the victims, the majority of innocent Iraqis, while the "culprits" are living it off and getting their Ferraris and their caviar just as usual.

Sanctions are victimising the ordinary Iraqis not only inside Iraq but also outside Iraq; passing by the British embassy in Amman one could listen to them plead for a visa and get turned down. Those who manage to get to London do not have access to their bank accounts to cover their livelihood because all personal Iraqi accounts are frozen, whereas the Iraqi regime's front companies in London and in the European capitals are operating full-swing, generating income for the regime. This lopsided logic must stop after six years of it.

Omar Abbas,
Amman.

Aiming for the best

To the Editor:

CHANGING A sentence here or there for clarity of meaning is not a matter for objection in any newspaper article. But what happened to my letter "Prosperity helps peace" (Jordan Times, Oct. 23, 1996) was a bothering interference in the political and economic state implicated in it as a whole.

First, you changed the title from "Humanising peace and normalisation" to another headline, "Prosperity helps peace", which astonished me.

Then, the sentence, "both of the Jordanian and the Israeli governments should try to..." was changed into, "both governments are trying to..." which changed the meaning altogether.

While I appreciate your efforts in correcting spelling mistakes in my letter, I hope you will find the space to publish the notes I mentioned above.

Tayseer Nazmi,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Netanyahu's Israel cannot wait and live on lies

By Ludwig Wahbe Tamari

FOR ABOUT four decades, the state of Israel has gone from strength to strength while we in the Arab and Muslim countries have struggled sluggishly to respond to the ever mounting Zionist challenge. There is no denying the obvious: while we in the Arab and Muslim countries are proud of our history and culture, we have never really thought of a credible response to Israel's ideology. We have squandered our major resources either exalting our past glories or bemoaning the saga of our misfortunes. If truth is to be told, we have been our own worst enemies, a fact that caused Israel to become stronger than it really is.

Now, however, nearly fifty years after the founding of Israel, the tables are slowly, but inexorably turning, and it is the Palestinians who are becoming stronger — and Mr. Netanyahu's Israel is becoming increasingly weaker. The negativism of Mr. Netanyahu towards the peace process, as exemplified by his infamous series of "nos", has undermined Israel's international credibility. The peace-loving people of the world are angry. The Western democracies are impatient. The Israelis themselves are divided and even the Israeli defence forces are divided between defending Israel from the threats from without and the potential upheavals from within. Even Mr. Clinton is alienated, although, because of the U.S. elections, he cannot show his frustration.

Notwithstanding the hubbaloos which Mr. Netanyahu's hubris has created, the Palestinians remain unruffled. They maintain that Mr. Netanyahu's intransigence cannot hurt them any more. They have reached the end of their tether. Yet, they are not distraught. Suffering has become second nature for them and they know that steps taken to deepen their traumas

will now also brutalise Israel's dream of security and peace.

Like the Israelis, the Palestinians have had their ethos honed to withstand the worst through all travail, trial and error.

We can surmise that the Israeli prime minister aims at fabricating a cold war of sorts that is solely suited to serve a long-term and well-studied plan. To Mr. Netanyahu, Israel has always been able to win battles and eventually to tailor the terms of peace. In his book, since Israel has always been the victor (and woe to the vanquished) the concepts of peace either as a tactical tool or a strategic weapon should be structured as benefits Israeli self-interest. For Mr. Netanyahu, the ultimate truth is that the political conferences at Madrid, Oslo, Davos, Cairo and Washington were no more than exercises in conflict management and so, therefore, unbinding to Israel.

I, for one, would not blame Mr. Netanyahu for living up to what is best in Machiavelli; he knows that the scenario of a cold war would enhance his negotiating skills. After all, neither he nor Peres, nor Arafat (nor any other Israeli or Palestinian leader), is running a philanthropic organisation. The mere reference to the peace process is anathema to him. To him and his supporters, the founding of Israel was laid on the basis of a series of lies, that were then spoon-fed to the American people: that the Palestinian people not only did not exist, but that "a people without a land" came to "a land without a people."

Yet, the voice of history speaks loudly. How can anyone in the international community ignore the existence of dozens of Palestinian refugee camps spotted throughout the Arab World? And what of the Palestinian refugees in the Oslo accord? It is just the last piece of evidence that not only do the Palestinians exist, but that they were thrown out of their land in 1948. The

voice of the truth speaks loudly and not even the Israeli prime minister can silence it.

When Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza, it was forced to acknowledge the existence of another 3.5 million Palestinians — many of them already in refugee camps. These Palestinians (nearly five million in number in the West Bank, Gaza, and in Israel proper) are living proof of the existence of a people. And so it has been proven, fifty years after Israel's founding, that no state can prove its existence by denying that of another.

Mr. Netanyahu and his entourage are no novices in the art of substituting fact for fiction — and vice versa. One will not be far from the truth when imagining the Israeli prime minister grimacing when he inquires about Palestine... and Palestinians. But Mr. Netanyahu, despite this grimace, knows his limits and while he may wish to repeat the worn formulas of the past, he knows better not to refer to the big lie, or to say that Palestinians (unlike any of the other citizens of the world) should be denied their inalienable rights. As if speaking for his own political party, Mr. Netanyahu, in one of his impromptu utterances, said it all: "We're not blind, we're not stupid, and we're not playing the game of the previous government."

The Israeli prime minister should be told that he is playing games with the fate of the Israeli people — and with the fate of world peace. The fact of the matter is that while he remains fastidious in upholding the Machiavellian mechanics of power politics, for no matter what his "nos" are worth, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres found it in Israel's self-interest to graduate to validate the spirit and letter of U.N. resolutions 338 and 242.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres, negotiated a partnership with the Palestinians with this sure knowledge: that the age of the big lie was over. Hence, Mr. Arafat's most eloquent pronouncement, "you cannot go to the dance alone, you need a partner to tango" is an adept description of the current state. Mr. Arafat has shown, very recently, that he is an adept dancer.

The more Mr. Netanyahu persists in playing the game of blatantly reneging on what has been internationally agreed upon, the more he will be distancing Israel from becoming a member of the Middle Eastern family of nations. The more he will be creating a divided fortress state, a second pre-Mandela South Africa, the more he will be frustrating the possibilities of its becoming a home for Jews that is predicated on peace, stability and economic prosperity. And the more he, Mr. Netanyahu, upholds a policy that denies Palestinians not only their right for a state but their identity as a people, the more Israel will be jeopardising its globally inflated role as a model for emerging democracies.

There and then, we would not be far off in recognising in Mr. Netanyahu the emergence of a leader who miscalculates as often and as deeply as Saddam Hussein. So far in his short-term in the office he has miscalculated the reaction of the Arab and Muslim countries, the reaction of the Palestinians in the form of a mini-intifada, the depth of American patience (especially at the official level) and the unqualified support of the American Jewish community and the sour reaction of all peace-loving nations, worldwide.

Mr. Netanyahu, if he wishes, may refuse to "play the game of the previous government"; he may refuse to negotiate, to talk, to acknowledge the simple lessons of the last forty years. And finally, the Palestinians — through all their faults — can wait, and wait, and wait.

Mr. Netanyahu cannot. It is not the Palestinian security that is at stake, but his country's.

election fever hit Jordan in the morning to see what might be a naturalised U.S. citizen on the coattails of President Clinton's victory. The American restaurant chain, which is a coincidence with what's happening...

WINNING FOR THE CHAM... the returns in the comfort of... the U.S. Embassy... premier hotel chain...

...night that began at... the Marriott's hit "spo... university students, busi... U.S. military personnel who... exercises with the Jordan... election results were m... the press. As the tally of e... show the incumbent presid... Bob Dole, the inter... towards just partying... there for the earlier... towards the quiet of their... left for the quiet of their... via satellite... Libaleh turned up... to mix with the... from the international... the folks from Associate... seemed to strike up some... from a much coveted V... London-New York... numbers were called out... This was a first try at... for the embassy. In past... at the American Cen... more sedate. Criticism... the poor ventilat... at times poor sound. In fa... his win, television network... resident dancing the "Macarena... of merry missed at Champ... elections in the cards are P... in 1997, but affairs of th... are likely to be on these... agendas.

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Society on the Move

Jumping on the election band wagon

The U.S. election fever hit Jordan in more ways than one: people staying up glued to their television sets until the wee hours of the morning to see who had won; embassies and hotels teaming up to produce what might be called an elections special; a naturalised U.S. citizen from Fuhais running for office on the coattails of President Clinton's party; and a famous American restaurant chain invading Amman as if to coincide with what's happening elsewhere on the large screen.

WATCHING FOR THE CHAMPION: Jordanians watching the returns in the comfort of their homes aside, the American Centre of the U.S. Embassy and Marriott Hotel (an American premiere hotel chain) joined forces for an election watch night that began at 11:00 p.m. Tuesday evening till way past sunrise the next morning. Packed into Champions, the Marriott's hit "sports restaurant" were diplomats, university students, businesspersons, tourists and even U.S. military personnel who were in Jordan conducting joint exercises with the Jordan Armed Forces. But the bulk of the crowd which turned up to watch the U.S. presidential election results were members of the state media and the press. As the tally of electoral college votes began to show the incumbent president the clear winner over Republican Bob Dole, the interest in party politics moved much more towards just parrying. U.S. Ambassador Wesley Egan was there for the earlier part of the evening, as was Spanish Ambassador Juan Manuel Cabrera. Later, however, both left for the quiet of their residences to watch the coverage of the election via satellite. Chief Editor of Al Aswag Mustafa Abu Libdeh turned up but only for an hour, leaving his son Samer to mix with the Generation X set. Quite large in turnout was the crowd from Jordan Television and from the international news agencies based in Amman. The folks from Associated Press and Agence France Presse seemed to strike up some healthy relations, but Reuters was noticeably under-represented. Raffle prizes ranged from a much coveted Voice of America tote bag to a round-trip London-New York air ticket, won by a Jordanian employee of the U.S. Embassy, but only after several other numbers were called out with no one claiming those tickets. This was a first try at such a party off U.S. premises for the embassy. In past election years these events were held at the American Centre where the activities were much more sedate. Criticism on Tuesday night's happening centred on the poor ventilation, small television screens and at times poor sound. In fact when Clinton was certain of his win, television network cameras focused on a U.S. president dancing the "Macarena," a novel demerit, of jettisoning the "Champions." Other major national elections in the cards are Pakistan, Iran and of course Jordan in 1997, but affairs of the sort the Americans organise are not likely to be on these countries' cultural exchange agendas.

AN AWFULLY GOOD OFFER: While so many members of the press showed up for the American political fes-



President Clinton celebrates as he stands with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea following his speech in Little Rock, Arkansas after he was re-elected President of the United States. (Reuters photo)

tivities being played out here in Amman, two noticeable absenteees had good reason to stay away. Jihad Momani of the notorious tabloid Shihan and Faisal Shboul of the much more staid Al Aswag were either crossing "party lines", so to speak, or simply jumping ship altogether. After five years as editor in chief of Shihan, Mr. Momani is bolting to another notorious tabloid Al Bilad. It appears he was made an offer he could not refuse by Al Bilad sole owner and publisher Nayef Tawara who was seeking a partner. "The only reason" that he is making the switch, says Mr. Momani, is that he will become that partner when the paper becomes a shareholding company, a conversion expected to take place soon. Journalists from both Shihan and Al Bilad have had their scrapes with the law. Several of them had been arrested on various charges of violating the Press and Publications Law, from lese majeste to not observing journalistic ethics, including Mr. Tawara himself. The arrests were made in connection with the weeklies' reporting of the unrest in Karak in late August. Mr. Tawara was released just over a week after his detention and was quoted by Agence France Presse as saying he had signed a written pledge "not to instigate violence or sow dissent." The new

Momani-Tawara partnership will put Mr. Momani in the editor-in-chief's seat. With him Mr. Momani brings a diverse record of experience. He had worked for the Orphans' Fund, Al Hwar newspaper (a Canadian concern published in Amman), and was once Arabic news director at Novosti, the former Soviet news agency. Who will replace him at Shihan remains a question, and we will tell you when we find out.

BAILING OUT: Resigned from Al Aswag daily, on the other hand, is prominent journalist Faisal Shboul. Mr. Shboul, who in July 1995 unsuccessfully for the Jordan Press Association presidency (coming in third place) says he is not looking for a new job since he badly needs a rest from it all, but it is not likely that Shihan will be one of his sought-after options. Changes at Al Aswag management are said to be what prompted Mr. Shboul to take his career change decision. At any rate, Mr. Shboul is the Amman correspondent of the London-based Al Wasat Arabic weekly magazine, and that alone could keep him half busy for a while. In his resignation letter he complained that Al Aswag is being

run on the basis of a "one-man show," but did not elaborate.

AND NOW THIS MESSAGE: Meanwhile, as part and parcel of the continuing internal reorganisation taking place at the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation (JRTVC), several staff members have been reassigned to new posts. Hamdi Hiari, who was acting head of the Satellite Channel now moves to become advisor to the JRTVC director general. Adnan Zoubi moves from news presenting to become head of the Satellite Channel. Ghaleb Hadidi, former chief broadcaster, moves to become assistant director of Jordan Radio for training. And Sawwan Tufaha becomes chief broadcaster.

THE TALE OF MARK DAVID: Mujahed Daoud Tameh, a native-born son of Fuhais, announced his candidacy in the U.S. elections system and ran as a Democrat for a seat as a court clerk in Hamilton, Ohio. The 27-year-old candidate immigrated to the U.S. when still a child. His family back here in Jordan, including his uncle Deputy Fawzi Tameh, remember calling him Mark. As do many immigrants, Mujahed took to using his nickname Mark and the translation of his father's name Daoud to David. But reports are that his Republican opponents insisted that he use his given name to draw attention to his ethnicity. So much for benign discrimination. News from Fuhais post election day is that Mujahed (Mark) lost his bid. But so did hundreds of other candidates before finally clinching a victory. Better luck next time.

SO WHERE'S RONALD? The big news on Abdullah Ghosheh Street in Amman today will be the much touted about opening of Jordan's first, but not last, McDonald's fast food restaurant. A private opening for diplomats, officials and the press was held Wednesday evening under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, and timed to be marked on the occasion of the King's birthday. But two days earlier in far-flung places of the world, where Jordanians would definitely be found, rumours among our communities there were that McDonald's had already opened and that the roads in its vicinity had been closed off to traffic to allow for the throngs of VIPs racing to gobble up Big Macs. That beef burger, large fries and a large soft-drinked beverage in London, for instance, would cost you £3.99, and last we hear from Moscow the meal there runs more than \$10. But no matter how we tried, the management, public relations and advertising people were keeping their price tags secret: not a bad ploy to lure the curious, not to mention the fast food junkies towards those "golden arches."

Jennifer Hamarneh

Compact precision

Dictionary Of The Middle East
By Dilip Hiro
MacMillan, London, 1996 £45 (£14.99 pb)
St. Martin's Press, New York, 1996 \$30

THIS BOOK richly deserves to be brought to the notice of anyone having to do with the 15 countries it deals with. It is an invaluable guide for journalists, students, diplomats, businessmen and, not least, politicians. It is difficult to decide which aspect of this work is more deserving of praise: The idea of producing such a work of

reference or the competence with which it has been compiled. The 1,000 entries ensure comprehensiveness and their compression into a single manageable volume ensures compactness. And this has been done with a precision that is truly admirable.

What is particularly valuable is that the dictionary deals not only with particular events or personalities but with concepts like Nasserism, Christian fundamentalism and Zionism and collectives like the oil and gas industry.

It is, of course, inevitable that readers are bound to find that some subjects of special interest to them are missing.

This reviewer deplores the omission of any entry on Turkey and the argument that Turkey is really not a part of the Middle East is pedantic. Yet, it has to be remembered that this is a one-volume dictionary, not a multi-volume encyclopaedia. Nevertheless, the book does manage to provide a sufficiency of facts and figures on the subjects that it deals with in clear, crisp fashion.

The author, an indefatigable scholar, has said that he tried hard to avoid any particular bias, which is especially difficult in an area like the Middle East which seethes with violent partisanship. Yet he has succeeded in achieving both bal-

BOOK REVIEW

ance and fairness while at the same time avoiding dry-as-dust scholarship to which works of reference are notably prone.

The ten maps are a valuable addition to a publication that can fairly be described as "essential," especially in its moderately priced paperback edition. It is hoped this work will be regularly reprinted and updated. Hiro has, truly, put us in his debt — Middle East International.

G.H. Jansen

Sticky myths that lead to environmental muddle

By Kate De Selincourt

LONDON — Some of the world's biggest environmental "problems" — including deforestation and desertification — have been so drastically oversimplified that the projects devised to tackle them do more harm than good, British researchers claim in a new book.

What is worse, these misguided ideas and policies persist even when there is good evidence that they are wrong.

The environmental myths are backed up by selective and often downright poor science, but live on despite the evidence because they are so useful to scientists, donors, aid agencies, non-government organisations and governments, say the researchers.

For example the "crisis" of desertification which shot to the top of the international environmental agenda in the late 1970s was based on a combination of extrapolation and guesswork, says one of the authors of *The Lie Of The Land*, environmental economist Jeremy Swift from Britain's Institute of Development Studies.

He points out that short-term changes over a short-drought period were

mistaken for a permanent one-way process. Yet exactly the same changes had been observed 40 years earlier, and the process reversed in the wet years in between.

He adds that the 1984 United Nations Environment Programme estimate that 35 per cent of the world's surface was under threat from desertification was based on estimates sent in reply to a questionnaire, after many countries had initially replied that they had no figures for desertification in their territories. Swift reports that one estimate, taken from aerial surveys of Bangladesh, compared vegetation cover at the time of year when the rice crop was green and unharvested in 1977, with cover in 1983 at the start of the growing season, when fields were bare as they were prepared for sowing. The difference was counted as "loss of vegetation."

Many similar mistakes are described in the book. What the authors find in common is that these mistakes, or myths, are very "sticky" — people go on believing them even when there is good evidence that the truth is either more complicated, or simply completely different. The authors point to a common thread running

through the different myths: They all justify large-scale, big-budget projects that involve interference in people's lives by outside agencies.

For example, a Plan of Action for the Sahel was drawn up at the United Nations Conference on Desertification in 1977 telling planners to "assign all sections of the area to particular uses, such as crops, livestock, game ranching, forests, biosphere reserves, recreation" and also allowing "complete withdrawal" from use. Swift writes that although these proposals were encouraging governments to force people to alter their lives and livelihoods, and in some instances even evict them from their lands, "there were little more than perfunctory nods in the direction of the logic of existing land uses, and local participation in planning."

Swift comments that when he read the other contributions in the book he saw "an astonishing similarity in who wins and who loses." The authors point out that thousands or even millions of people have had their access to customary resources removed on the grounds of one or other environmental crisis.

Thus pastoralists are vic-

In their rush to help, aid agencies and NGOs are acting on environmental 'facts' which are really no more than myths, claim the authors of a new book. And the researchers say that all the myths end up justifying large-scale, big-budget projects involving interference in people's lives by outside agencies

ted from traditional rangelands to "preserve endangered wildlife": farmers are banned from cutting trees, including those they or their ancestors may have planted, in order to "preserve the threatened forests," farmers and pastoralists are excluded from stretches of land to "halt soil erosion."

"These crisis stories are used to justify what is basically quite unjustifiable interference in people's lives by big agencies such as the United Nations and the World Bank," says Swift. And all the authors in the book are concerned that people's very real problems — environmental, economic and political — are overlooked and even exacerbated because of the attention paid to the crisis myths.

Many of these myths appear to be backed up by scientific evidence. But sci-

ence usually offers a variety of views, and it is the views that best suit the needs of the funding bodies which will get most prominence and most funding for further studies on the same lines, warn editors Melissa Leach and Robin Mearns.

"We are not saying there is a conspiracy, because we don't believe that either the scientists or the international agencies realise they are doing this. It is an unconscious process."

Leach and Mearns call for two big changes to the way environmental problems are studied and acted upon. "There is a need," they say, "for people to look much more at historical evidence over the longest time possible, before they announce there is an urgent crisis which must be addressed at once with draconian measures."

They also call for a democratisation of the processes of research and decision-making. While warning against "romanticising" the knowledge and skills of local people, Leach, Mearns and Swift call for these voices to be given equal weight with that of foreign "experts."

This means that the oft-repeated calls for "participation" in development would have to be heeded even by the massive agencies which are so often criticised for their top-down approach. Mearns says he has presented the book's conclusions to a meeting at the World Bank, and had found bank staff who he met "surprisingly receptive."

"I think there is genuine concern within the bank to decentralise their operations and become more responsive to local realities," he says. "Whether this ever becomes reflected on the ground, we will have to see, but there is certainly an awareness in some quarters there of the need to change"

— Gemini News.

Myth and reality

* Myth (getting things backwards): Erosion gullies

cause soil erosion and must be filled in.

Alternative view: Soil erosion often causes gullies; filling them in is pointless.

* Myth (dangerous oversimplification): Planting trees protects the soil against erosion.

More complicated reality: Some trees in some places are good, other trees in other places not so; for example, eucalyptus planted in the dry places where they are most popular can dry out the soil and cause more erosion.

* Myth (politically convenient smokescreen): The Ethiopian famine of the 1980s was caused by population pressure which in turn led to land degradation, and could therefore be solved by technical measures such as terracing and stone lines.

View looking back: The chief causes of famine were political, including chronic insecurity of land rights, and inability of farmers to make savings to see them through lean years. Terracing and stone lines in fact reduce agricultural yield, later research showed.

* Myth (a panic reaction of outsiders, based on very

few, brief studies): Cutting trees for fuelwood is set to deforest large areas of dry-land and savanna in the near future, and it is therefore essential to establish formal woodlots.

More complicated reality: Most fuelwood comes from renewable sources, and if that source diminishes, other fuels are sought. Problems are often of access rather than quantity of wood present. Woodlots planted at the instigation of outsiders may be regarded as a loss of land rather than a gain of fuel.

* Myth (mixture of cultural, racial and political prejudice and guesswork): Pastoralists cause environmental damage and loss of wildlife, and so must be forced to settle.

View that governments and wildlife organisations find hard to swallow: Pastoralists can often co-exist with wildlife, but if they are excluded from their rangelands and forced into enclosed areas for grazing, serious overgrazing and social and environmental problems can occur.

Publishers by the pound

By Jean-Claude Elias

MANY ARE the tasks that have been transformed by personal computing in the last decade. PCs are much more than simple automation tools we use to store information, do our writing, perform calculations, draw maps, keep our accounts or record music — work we would have otherwise done manually. Because of the ease with which such work is accomplished and the overall quality of the result, PCs have radically changed the way we think of these tasks.

In music for instance new methods and procedures have been developed in recording studios thanks to the possibilities offered by digital, computer-based recorders and music editing tools. Another, more widely spread application is Desk Top Publishing (DTP). Extrapolated from advanced word processing DTP allows you to present text and illustrations, photographs, drawing, etc. in professional looking publishing formats like magazines, newspapers or books.

From highly professional programmes such as QuarkExpress or PageMaker to the easier MS-Publisher, the world of DTP lets both professionals and home users produce fine looking publications. This state of affairs has led to the appearance of an incredible number of newsletters.

Originally produced in large corporations employing hundreds of people — major banks, government administrations, big industries — newsletters are internal information bulletins comprising typically 8 to 16 pages of news that could be of some interest to either the corporation's staff and/or to its clients.

When intended for internal distribution, the newsletter would carry social news about the employees, the management and would generally present a positive image of the company's status and achievements. It remains before all entertaining and often helps maintain a pleasant atmosphere of work. If the newsletter is distributed to the clientele, it also becomes a promotional tool.

Schools for instance make it a point to have their own newsletter with miscellaneous stories about teachers, students, and any internal event that may be worth writing about.

DTP has recently made publishing a newsletter so easy

chip talk



that everybody now wants to have their own publication. Small companies with as little as ten or twenty employees want to produce a journal. Schools who used to release bulletins on a monthly basis now try to have weekly issues.

Naturally when you suddenly increase a given quantity you get a directly proportional decrease in quality, not on the technical level that the PC is supposed to take care of, but on the contents level. It still takes writers to write interesting stories, people to do proofreading and artists to come up with good looking designs. Computer still cannot replace us for that.

Even if there were people to produce interesting publications in every single company, school, office, administration or corporation, who is going to read all this material? We can but notice how large the share of information and news we receive everyday has become, be it via TV, on radio or in newspapers. Some satellite channels broadcast news exclusively, 24 hours a day. Therefore is there any time left for us to read about the latest trip a distant colleague — working in another department and whom we have met once or twice — has made to Agaba or Cyprus? Arguably trivial news about our colleagues may prove to be more meaningful than a bloody tribal war in a country 10,000 miles away.

How much information can we absorb and who is able to filter the information we want or need? The presence of personal computers and DTP is "creating" more and more amateur publishers around us. Can they find readers to justify their existence?

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, November 7, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	8:01	Auto Classics
2:05	Iris + Ovid & The Gang	8:30	Album Show
2:30	Take Your Pick	9:10	Great Books (Documentary)
3:00	Covington Cross	10:00	News In English
3:30	Feature Film — The Flying Sneaker	10:30	Madson
5:00	News Flash	11:15	Miami Vice
5:02	Con. Feature Film	12:00	Yes Minister
5:30	French Programme		

Monday, November 11, 1996

7:00	Le Journal	2:00	Holy Koran
7:15	Magazine — Atomes Crochus	2:05	Muppet Show
7:30	News Headlines	2:30	Dad's Army
7:35	Pacific Station	3:00	French Programme
8:01	American Chart Show	4:00	Nature's Inventions
8:30	Material World	4:30	Hey Dad
9:10	Kung Fu	5:00	News Flash
10:00	News In English	5:02	Destiny Ridge
10:25	Feature Film — The Unforgivable	6:00	French Programme
12:00	Taratata	7:30	News Headlines

Friday, November 8, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	Muppet Show	2:05	Budgie
2:30	Play About + Flintstones	2:25	Oscar's Orchestra
3:00	See How They Grow	2:40	I Love Lucy
3:15	French Programme	3:00	French Programme
4:00	Crystal Maze	4:00	At The Zoo
5:00	News Flash	4:30	My Secret Identity
5:02	Name Your Adventure	5:00	News Flash
5:30	French Programme	5:02	Fun With Physics
7:00	Le Journal	5:15	Road To Avonlea
7:15	Magazine — Allo La Terre	6:00	French Programme
7:30	News Headlines	7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Blossom	7:35	Murphy Brown
8:01	Secret Weapons	8:01	Magazine Zero — One
8:30	Hunter	8:30	Encounter
9:10	Virtual Reality	9:10	Star Trek
10:00	News In English	10:00	News In English
10:30	Feature Film	10:30	China Beach

Saturday, November 9, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	2:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Adventures Of Micky And Donald	2:05	Muppet Show
3:30	Cirque — French	2:30	Circus
3:00	French Programme	3:00	French Programme
4:00	Gillette (Sports)	4:00	Documentary — Earth Revealed
4:30	Cris Cross	4:30	Blizzard Island
5:00	News Flash	5:00	News Flash
5:02	Futures	5:02	The Adventures + Kelly
5:15	Blue Heelers	6:00	French Programme
6:00	French Programme	7:35	News Headlines
7:30	News Headlines	7:35	The Four Seasons
7:35	Something Wilder	8:01	Super Stars Of Action
8:01	Documentary	8:30	Challenges
8:30	Prism (local Talk Show)	9:10	N.B.A. Basketball
9:10	Lois And Clark	10:00	News In English
10:00	News In English	10:25	The Dollmaker
10:25	The Maharajah's Daughter	12:00	Fire And Ice
11:15	Feature Film		

Sunday, November 10, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	Fievels Americans Tails	2:05	Muppet Show
2:30	You Bet Your Life	2:30	Circus
3:00	French Programme	3:00	French Programme
4:00	World Echo — Documentary	4:00	Documentary — Earth Revealed
4:30	The Famous Five	4:30	Blizzard Island
5:00	Documentary	5:00	News Flash
5:15	Search And Rescue	5:02	The Adventures + Kelly
6:00	French Programme	6:00	French Programme
7:30	News Headlines	7:35	News Headlines
7:35	Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air	7:35	The Four Seasons

Little things that matter most

By Sahier Ghaleb Bagaeen

IT WAS a letter I got the other day from one of my Swedish friends that made me realise that I was not the only one thinking that it is always best to start from within. To first figure out the little things inside of our own souls before we attempt to figure out the meaning of, and reasoning for, everything around us.

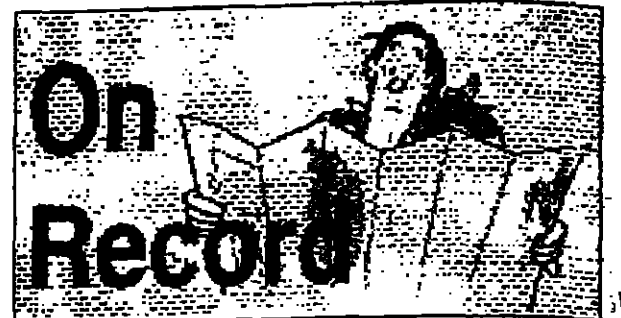
For example, it is quite true to assume that we find out that we are truly alive when life begins to hurt. This is partly because life is quite grey, it is both happiness and sorrow. Hurting, in a manner of speaking, can make it possible to help us really appreciate the art of living.

Living is an art because it is not some abstract concept that we go through everyday always hoping to do better next time around but never do. It is rather an accumulative learning experience where people, us, learn from both our own experiences and those of others.

The learning part is easy. The other more difficult part is that which has to do with us facing inwards to face those parts of us we are least proud of. This is the ultimate challenge.

This is the challenge which has to do with us not being selfish, with us becoming better drivers, better farmers coordinating with one another for the coming season's harvest, better workers, better managers, better teachers, better students, and so on...

All this has to do with a need to go through things and experiences rather than go around them. This means that before we ever attempt to sit behind the steering wheel of a car that we try walking, peddling or even cycling. To go through all the processes that the people who had invented the car in the first place had to go through.



If we begin to do this, we will learn to appreciate what we have at any given moment in time. The fact is that we do not. This is to say that one of our biggest problems is that we take whatever blessings we have for granted. Because of this, a little bit of care and appreciation can go a long way.

Our queuing habits, better still their absence, our studying habits, and even the manner in which we conduct business can all be thoroughly improved if only we were to stop for a second or two to think about that which we are about to do next.

This act of thinking, in itself requiring very little physical effort, is, quite often, the greatest part of anything that we can ever do or accomplish. It is, above everything else, about being sensible and generous towards ourselves and others.

A generosity that should stem from the knowledge that we are not alone in this world. That there will always be people around us with whom we have to learn to share the spaces we inhabit. Once we get into the habit of doing this, we will become better people.

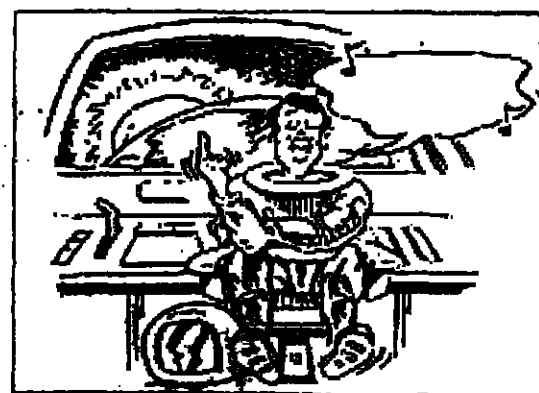
AMAZING FACTS



An American paratrooper escaped an inevitable death at a height of 3500 ft when his parachute failed to open while jumping. He was lucky to fall down in a murky pond.

Mark Twain, the American novelist, registered in his name a patent in 1873 when he invented a diary on which newspaper clippings are stuck. The diary pages were covered with gum.

Each hair covering the porcupine's body contains one thousand bristles.



Astronauts orbiting space can see the sun rise and set for sixteen times every twenty-four hours.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- ** Relations were strained between both of them.
Tawattarat al-ufaqat baynahuma.
- ** You distort the truth.
Innaka tushaw'weh al-haqiqah.
- ** Take it easy.
Haw'wen alaik.
- ** He wandered aimlessly about town.
Hafma ala wajheh fil'maddeenah.
- ** He prepared an ambush for her.
Nasaba laha kameenan.
- ** I see promising signs in you.
Atawassam feka khairan.
- ** We belong to different camps.
Nahnu fee wad wa'antom fee wad.

JOKES

- * WIFE: "It's a calamity!" I've forgotten that the fire is still burning at home."
- * HUSBAND: "Never mind. I've also forgotten that the tap is open. Anyhow if the fire broke out, the water would put it out."

* CUSTOMER: "I've lost all my hair. What can I do?"
DOCTOR: "That's very simple. You can advertise on TV or in papers in the hope that someone would find it and return it for you."

* THIEF: "Sergeant! Let me go and buy a loaf of bread and come back soon since you're tired of walking."
SERGEANT: "No, you're planning to escape. Give me the price of the loaf and I, in return, will buy it for you."

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. An Arab country is mentioned in the Holy Koran. What is it?
2. Which metal is mostly found underground?
3. Who first used the engagement ring?
4. Al Farabi is the inventor of the zither. True or false?
5. Which lives longer: The camel or the elephant?
6. What is the largest Islamic country in Africa?

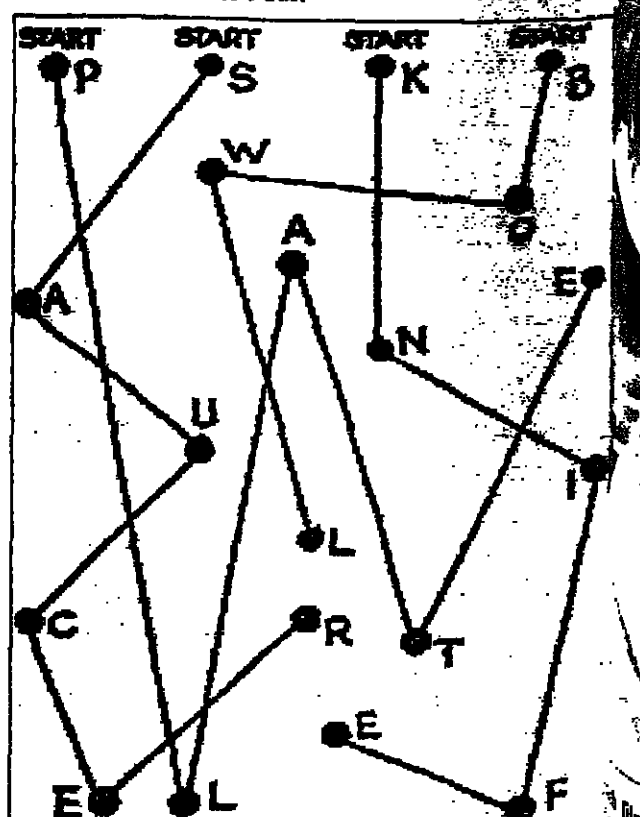
PUZZLES

(A) FIVE QUESTIONS:

1. What letter of the alphabet represents a Scottish river?
2. What letter of the alphabet is French for "she"?
3. What letter of the alphabet do you find in a pod?
4. What letter of the alphabet do you stand in line for?
5. What letter of the alphabet is married to a ram?

(B) ODD-ONE-OUT:

Every line spells out a word. Which is the odd one out?



British

(AFP) — A respected British director tried to make a biopic about Michael Collins. Michael Collins has said a British director scuppered the project. Michael Collins took over as head of the IRA and was a key figure in the Irish War of Independence. Michael Collins, best known for his role in the Irish War of Independence, was killed in 1922. The director, Ken Loach, was in Vienna to film the 1996 film 'The Wind That Shakes the Barley'.

Neil Jord



RENDEZVOUS WITH ART

Great expectations matched by great evocations

The art of Abdul Latif Smoudi — Not quite calligraphy, not quite totem-symbolism, but every bit an Oriental aesthetic treat

By Mahmood I. Mufti

"YOUR LORDSHIP tells me that the simple discourse of my life, contents you more in its first shape than were it polished and retouched by others — for then the truth of what I have written would show less clear; and I have taken great care to say nothing of things for which I should have had to fumble in my memory...." wrote Florentine artist, Benvenuto Cellini to Lord Benedetto Varchi on May 22, 1559.

The notions that emerge from this written exchange would appear to be among the less obvious abstractions that exist between artists and audiences in general — or to put a finer point on it — between a specific artwork and a viewer. However, audiences vary, and so do their expectations and sensibilities. Some have great expectations — and necessarily, therefore, greater potential disillusionment — while others approach art with no expectations other than those not-too-unreasonable ones of being evoked in some way by the art. Positively (if they are so set, temperamentally), intensely (if they are fortunate).... but at any rate, evoked.

The art in Syrian artist Abdul Latif Smoudi's current exhibition is evocative in more than one realm; an amalgam of curiosity and spirituality is probably the most immediately forthcoming among all the possible emanant sentiments — especially in those works possessed of lighter and subtler hues — for they, in particular, radiate a transience that mitigates such ascription. An overwhelming feeling of 'aesthetic purity' descends in the vicinity of the viewer's poetic discernment. In that sense, Cellini's words come to be held in good favour here, for to the latter sort of viewer, these

works impart a concurrence that the works here are not only "not polished and retouched by others," but less obviously, not even by the artist himself; so securely are they imbued with their own inner gentle intensity of finesse and spiritual Eclat.

Additionally — and especially given that interactive discourse (customary with exhibiting artists), could not materialise due to the artist's absence — Cellini's avid attestation to Lord Varchi is vividly recalled; that he had told "naught save the truth, omitting many wonderful happenings" which others in his place would have made very prominent.... Indeed, through his works, Mr. Smoudi recounts a "truth" that need not be substantiated by his presence at the exhibition.

And yet, the many "wonderful happenings" in Mr. Smoudi's works, represented by his depictions' dynamism, are ever present in his art (and they, surely enough, remain ever "prominent" therein). Several artistic and philosophical variables predominate in the work: the rich interplay of colours, cultural derivation, mysticism, incorporeality, and technical sophistication (inclusive of intricate collage-work in some), among others.

In a way, they [the variables] can be likened to the "Seven Guardians" who watch over the house in George Mackay Brown's novel, *Keepers of the House*, in which Firekin lives in the chimney and chases away the smoke, whereas Windhove guards the windows and Jambone tends the cupboards.... to say nothing of Slumberton, who is ever keen in attending to "matters of the bed."

To a similar extent is the feeling imparted that Smoudi's works succumb to controlled yet non-too-



Syrian artist Abdul Latif Smoudi

overbearing guardians of colour, harmony, contrasts, etc. Surprisingly (though gratifyingly), the element of figurative contrivance is minimal — if not altogether absent — despite the glaring palpability of these forces. In a "pre-prepared" autobiographical account, the artist stresses that: "To grasp the reality of my work, let 'vividness' — which depends on simplicity and randomness — be between us. Stand and [contemplate] for some time, permitting yourself to be infused with the emanant freedom and dynamism."

The artist considers innovation and creativity,

if indeed the two don't already go hand-in-hand, as the principal cynosures of his artistic mission. To that end, he strives to avoid stylistic simulation, even of the insinuating sort. The activity of painting may be a repetitive dynamic, but a stylistic repeat is a significant setback, since through painting — and painting alone, asserts the artist — is one able to "tap in" on the "spiritual tool that enables the human mind to renew its senses, its concept of time, and its humanity, thus making strides in the direction of a more fulfilling life," says the artist, explaining that "painting, in my opinion, can be

linked to science every bit as much as it is to elements that more readily come to mind, such as human reflection, concentration and pensiveness. Science is there all right; painting is a form of energy, when you consider its mechanical and abstract application [over the canvass]. Figuratively, the aesthetics achieved in the process permeate, move and grow in our daily lives."

The exhibition's actual works seem to be consistent with the artist's subjective evaluation thereof. But subjectivity is the key here; the scope for interpretation is enormous. The atmosphere generated by

the collective 'spirit' of the collection is unmistakably one of the Orient; specifically the Middle East, Turkey, Iran. Symbols of all sorts abound — sometimes in bold oxblood-red, black and royal-blue, with razor-edge contrast thrown in for good measure — while in other instances, hazy light drea-my turquoises, lemon-yellow, rose-pinks, Edwardian-green and ivory-cream predominate. Some cultural symbols, effectively totem references, are rendered in a style that conjures up a sense of overall imagery rather than actuality. The stylistic feat here can be surmised in terms of the artist's ability to present the viewer with the minutest and seemingly-adamant intricacies and specificity, while perpetuating an atmosphere of general hieroglyphic imagery.

The abstract symbolism that characterises these works — albeit heavily accented with calligraphic insinuations — provides a passage from the tangible imagery of our somewhat fathomable world to that of a nearly entirely elusive one. In his book, *Theories of Modern Art*, Herschel B. Chipp refers to symbolism in terms of the visions engendered by symbolist artists and literati, who apparently believed that "the greatest reality lay in the realm of the imagination and fantasy," adding that these people "found life tolerable only in the cultivation of their own feelings and sensations."

Articulating the tenets of their vision/movement particularly effectively was their intellectual mentor, poet Charles Baudelaire. In his literary work, *Culte de moi*, his concern with individuality of expression was transformed into "an obsessive concern with the intimate, private world of the self that led to a rejection of the exterior world." Bau-

delaire expounded that "the whole of the visible universe is only a storehouse of images and signs to which the imagination assigns a place and a relative value; it is a kind of nourishment that the imagination must digest and transform."

The art of Abdul Latif Smoudi seems to circumscribe some of these elements in its unconventionality of style and apparent purpose. He purports that he is not drawing art-forms, rather, merely putting down his notes with his hands, using colours pulsating deep from within his inner-being to give another meaning to life, which he describes as beautiful in its natural composition, having more spirit and less material. "I'm attempting to call history, with its

body, soul and features, to live with us through its hindsight and thoughts.... We are the face of life.... dated and survived; inherited energy; history and knowledge," he adds.

Moreover, Mr. Smoudi serenades the spirit of the expressions he renders in oil-on-paper and collage-form, with his own genre of rhythmic prose: "Let me be captured by the resplendent colours in things all over the world. Oh! love, justice, light; I beseech thee to take me with you, for you are the pioneers of purity.... the last of eternity and the masters of loyalty...."

The exhibition is held at the Baladna Gallery, Wafiq Tal Street (Tel: 687598) till Nov. 10.



Oil-on-canvas painting depicting cultural symbols by Abdul Latif Smoudi

British army reportedly scuppered original Michael Collins film

LONDON (AFP) — A respected British film producer who 10 years ago tried to make a biopic of Irish Republican leader Michael Collins has said a British army threat to stop buying Coca-Cola scuppered the project.

David Putnam took over as head of Columbia Pictures in 1986 and inherited a script for a movie about Collins to be directed by Michael Cimino, best known for his film *The Deer Hunter*, he explained to the *Guardian* newspaper.

Columbia at that time had been acquired by soft drinks giant Coca-Cola as part of the corporation's diversification into leisure and entertainment.

In Britain, Coca-Cola had an important contract to supply

the British army, according to the *Guardian*.

Putnam told the paper that he "must have told people" that he was planning to work on the film about Collins, the charismatic founder of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), and that "strange words started coming back."

He was later told of warnings that if Columbia made the film, there would be violent reprisals against the company's interests. The warnings came from Dominic Cadbury of the firm Cadbury Schweppes, which distributed Coca-Cola in Britain and Ireland.

Cadbury reportedly told him: "Nothing may come of this, but is a film you're not desperate to make worth the notion

that one of our nightwatchmen might end up being shot as a warning?"

A month later he had a meeting with Francis Vincent, then head of Columbia Pictures, at which he was given an idea of the problems the film might create for Coca-Cola.

Vincent told him that he had received a communication from a British army colonel in charge of supplies which threatened to end the contract with Coca-Cola and switch to the "opposition," meaning Pepsi-Cola.

Vincent was however unable to show Putnam the letter, the producer told the *Guardian*.

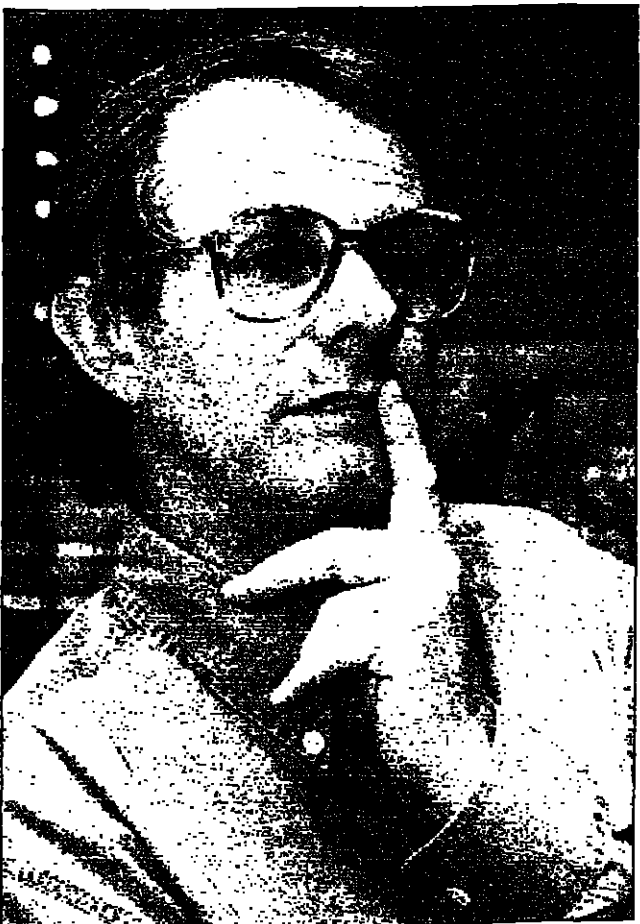
Michael Collins, a controversial version of the Republican

leader's life made by Irish director Neil Jordan, is due for release in Britain and Ireland next week.

The film, whose script was originally commissioned by Putnam, has already won the Venice Film Festival's Golden Lion Award and Irish actor Liam Neeson, the prize for best male lead in the title role.

But Jordan has also attracted furious criticism — in Ireland and Britain — for what some see as having taken liberties with history, taken sides with Northern Ireland nationalists, and playing apologist for their armed struggle against the backdrop of a tenuous Ulster peace process.

Neil Jordan — emphasising the historical, tired of the hysterical



British film director Ken Loach gestures during an interview. Loach was in Vienna to promote his latest film, *Carla's Song* at the 1996 Viennale Film Festival (Reuter photo)

By Douglas J. Rowe
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Director-screenwriter Neil Jordan musters a tired laugh when confronted with the criticism his film *Michael Collins* has received.

That's because he finds it all "a bit tiring."

"I don't mean any harm," he says, laughing again, this time a bit ruefully.

Before coming here to promote the movie, Jordan got flack from British politicians concerned about sectarian tensions in British-ruled Northern Ireland and from British tabloids suggesting his film gives comfort and support to the current Irish Republican Army. (Meantime, his movie was deemed best at the Venice Film Festival and Liam Neeson's brio-filled performance as the title role's "big fella" nabbed best-actor honours.)

Jordan figures certain segments of the British press don't want any aspect of the Irish experience to be made into films. "There's nothing I can do about that," Jordan says. "Yeats' poetry was written about the same peri-

od. They don't call Yeats an apologist for the IRA, do they? ... Yeats was a very strong Republican in his day."

He also thinks that part of the problem between Ireland and England is "that any attempt to examine certain facts always gives rise to kind of hysterical positions."

So historical integrity was important to him in making this movie.

The 46-year-old Irish director-screenwriter maintains it's "a fair representation" of the period (1916-1922).

"Even very, very conservative historians would say that. They would argue with certain details and things that I've done. But with regard to the broad shape of the movie, of the story, I don't think any could argue it's pejorative or propagandist," says Jordan, whose last film was *Interview With The Vampire*.

His new film presents the short career of the man who led a guerrilla war against the British to create a free Irish Republic — and semi-succeeded. It follows Collins as he directs the

IRA's assassination of key British intelligence figures in Dublin, leads a delegation to Britain that produced a compromise treaty in December 1921 and fails to persuade IRA diehards to accept the treaty, culminating in his assassination at age 31 during the subsequent civil war.

Jordan concedes that while well-done histories should be balanced and comprehensive, films don't lend themselves to those traits.

"Nobody lives their life with the advantage of historic objectivity. The one thing you can do in a dramatic reconstruction... you can show the kind of confusion out of which events arise," Jordan says. "I think you can give a better account of life as lived."

So Jordan focuses on the emotion, particularly among Collins, his best friend (Aidan Quinn) and the woman they vie for (Julia Roberts) and their moral dilemmas. And, yes, he does take some liberties with the facts, combining three real people into the double agent character played by Stephen Rea.

Long before he made *Michael Collins*, Jordan directed films that touched on Irish politics — and touched a raw nerve.

Slings of politicised peevishness were aimed at him after his first movie 14 years ago, *Angel*. Released in the United States as *Danny Boy*, it's about a young saxophonist who gets sucked into Northern Ireland's sectarian violence. The press over there pilloried Jordan for his apolitical approach to the country's problems.

And the director's 1992 hit *The Crying Game* — for which Jordan won an Academy Award for original-screenplay — was attacked by some who saw a sympathetic portrayal of the IRA.

In a recent interview, though, Jordan sounds less than totally sympathetic to the modern IRA.

He doubts Collins would be a proponent of terrorism as it's practiced today. Back then, Collins' targets were all British agents, and he demurred on the more radical plans to bomb London and kill civilians or to assassinate cabinet members. And Jordan maintains

Collins would never be involved in the "war of attrition" that the provisional IRA has fought against the British.

Jordan observes that Collins accomplished "an extraordinary amount" in his short life.

"The great question you ask is, 'had he lived...?' And, you might ask: How did Collins accomplish more in three years than the IRA has in 27?"

"I think it's a perfectly good question. It's its own answer, isn't it? ... I don't think Collins would have ever fought a war he couldn't win."

The second of five children with a painter-mother and teacher-father, Jordan was born in Sligo on Ireland's northwest coast. He grew up in Dublin and as a child he was allowed one film (which had to be sanctioned by the Catholic Church) every two weeks, but he also sneaked out to see secular films — "risking damnation in the process," he once joked.

His family was "very painterly" (his two sisters and grandfather as well as his mother were all artists),

and he has described their household as intellectual, strict, religious and enlightened.

He began his career as a novelist, and in 1974 he founded the Irish Writers Cooperative. His collection of short stories, *Night In Tunisia*, won the 1979 *Guardian* Fiction Prize. He has published several other works including *Sunrise With Sea Monster* last year.

Jordan, who first wrote a script for this film in 1983, says he probably needed to make a few movies before this one, since this was so large in scale. "Maybe I wouldn't have been equipped to make this," says Jordan, whose other movies include *Mona Lisa*, *The Company Of Wolves* and *We're No Angels*.

"You need a certain kind of security and authority to let a story tell itself. And in many ways, I didn't want to interfere with this story. I didn't want to put my hands all over it," he says. "Some of the movies that I admire most, some of the John Ford movies, some of the Kurosawa movies, they're haven't got personalities bleeding all over them."

New hopes in the battle against multiple sclerosis

After decades of no progress, scientists are finally making important inroads against Multiple Sclerosis. An Associated Press reporter writes about an MS patient he grew up with, and her determination to prevail.

By Steven Gukin
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Multiple Sclerosis (MS) pushed itself into Lynne Buckwald's life on the morning before her 30th birthday.

She awakened with no feeling in the left side of her body. Her symptoms soon progressed: A blind spot in her right eye, vertigo, loss of balance, fatigue — classic signs of the central-nervous-system disorder that robs people of their ability to live normal lives, to see, to walk, sometimes even to move.

Like most people, Lynne knew little about Multiple Sclerosis, only that it was very bad. So four months later, when my friend became one of the million or so people worldwide to be diagnosed with the disease, images of horror raced through her mind.

"My first thought was cerebral palsy and that little girl I knew as a kid who didn't have any control over her arms and legs," she says. "I wanted to go out and buy that new self-sci-fi book I read about."

Multiple Sclerosis is a chronic, often disabling disease for which there is no cure. For unknown reasons, it eats away at protective sheaths called myelin that surround nerves in the brain and spinal cord.

It's as if an electrical wire's insulation gets scraped off, short-circuiting the nerve impulses that direct muscle activity. In the mildest cases, the result is a slight lack of coordination.

In the worst, paralysis occurs. About two-thirds of MS patients are women.

Thanks to the form of MS Lynne has, and some promising new drugs, her outlook is better than anything MS patients have faced before.

Lynne Buckwald and I have been friends since we were both 4. As we grew up, we did everything together, including cutting class and hiking the mountains of Arizona.

So when she called, 27 years into our friendship, to tell me she had multiple sclerosis, we mourned together, too.

"You do mourn," Lynne says. "You mourn the loss of your health."

In the weeks following her diagnosis a year-and-a-half ago, Lynne went downhill. Her vision deteriorated, the vertigo got so bad she couldn't lift her head without vomiting and she temporarily lost the ability to walk.

It would take awhile for my gregarious friend to regain control of her body. But when she did, she found strength she didn't know she had.

Lynne was diagnosed with a relapsing form of MS; she could expect occasional flare-ups, each of which may or may not cause permanent damage, followed by periods of remission.

She began taking a new drug called Betaseron, which has been shown to reduce the frequency and intensity of flare-ups in some patients with her kind of MS.

The drug, first marketed in 1993, signalled a turning point in the fight against multiple sclerosis, and was a harbinger of more good news.

Two other promising drugs have appeared since Lynne's diagnosis, includ-

ing one developed in Israel called Capaxone, which has been shown to improve neurological function.

In a report published in July, researchers took an important step toward understanding the genetic underpinnings of MS by identifying regions in the human DNA code where MS could reside. And the once far-fetched idea of reconstituting damaged myelin has now, at least in theory, become possible.

By all accounts, MS research is moving faster than it has at any time since the disease was first written about five centuries ago. Still, a cure may be years away and the causes of the disease remain largely unknown.

"We have turned the corner from this disease being intractable to having what looks like a very bright future," said Dr. Fred Lublin, a researcher who helped develop Betaseron.

On Oct. 7, an Australian and a Swiss scientist won the Nobel Prize in Medicine for their immune-system research that may help treat cancer, diabetes and multiple sclerosis.

Lynne has been buoyed by the good news in MS research. She has taken a job with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in Phoenix and now spends her days helping others with the disease.

"I know that despite the horrible and the unknown, ultimately MS is reawakening that sense of service in me," she says.

Patients like Lynne with relapsing forms of MS, who make up about two-thirds of the MS population, often suddenly become chronic-progressive; instead of having periodic flare-ups, they deteriorate steadily over time.

Because most research

has focused on relapsing MS, which is easier to study than slow progression, there is less hope for people, like John Waters, with progressive multiple sclerosis.

But Waters, 28, whose disease has left him in a wheelchair and unable to move most of his muscles, hopes anyway — for the day his frayed myelin is repaired.

"That's what's going to get me walking," he says, realising that scientists won't likely be able to grow myelin in humans for several years.

Indeed, much MS research is in its infancy. July's genetic study seemed to support scientists' theory that a combination of genes and early exposure to some environmental factor causes the disease, but it also underscored how complicated MS is.

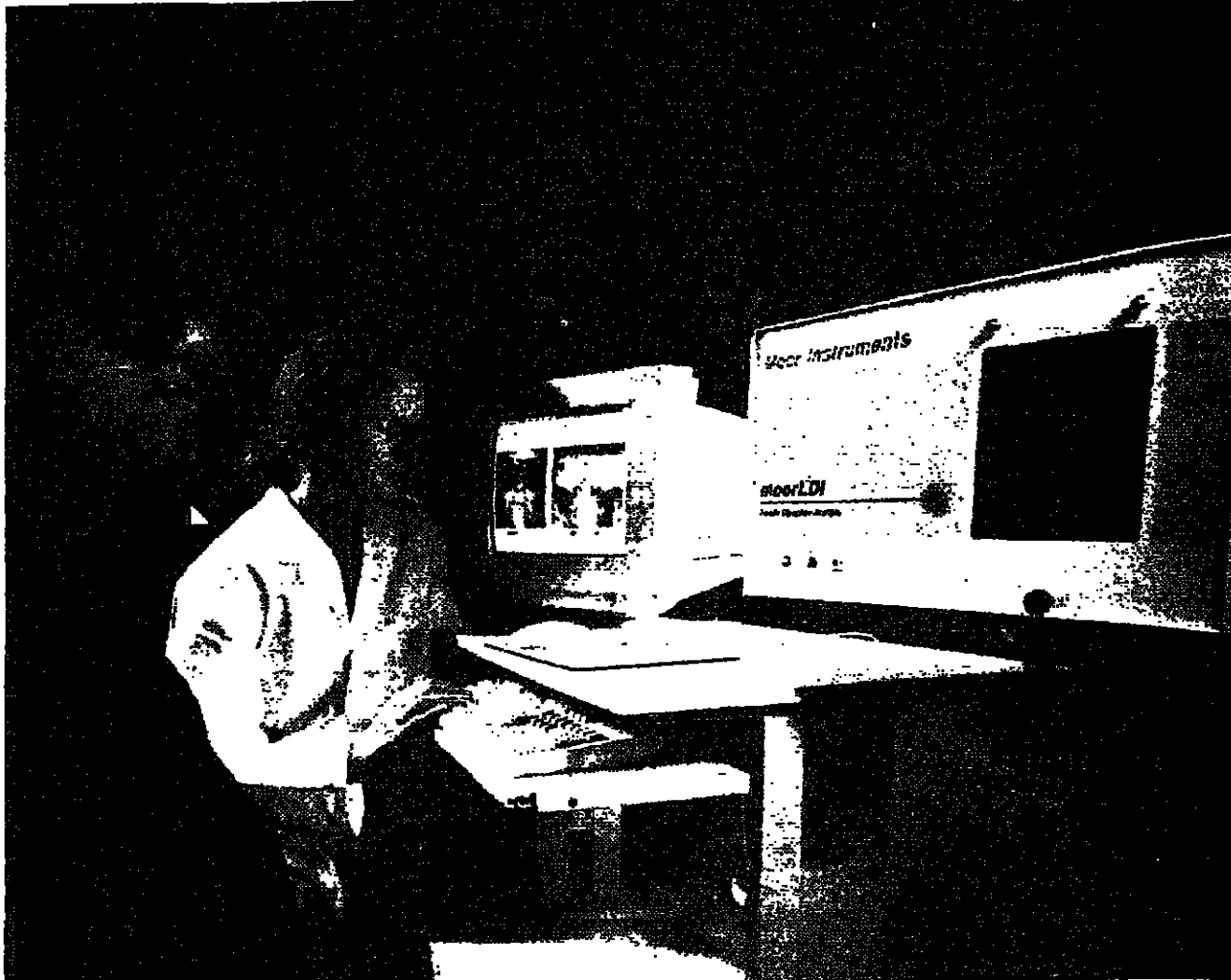
"It didn't give us a nice neat little answer tied up in a package," says Dr. Lael Stone, an MS researcher at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona. "It gave us the sense that a lot more work needs to be done."

Lynne now walks and moves her muscles with only slightly less agility than healthy people. But on a recent evening drive through Brooklyn, New York, my eternally optimistic friend confided that she is afraid.

"Will anyone want me now?" she asked me. "Am I damaged goods?"

I told her the truth, that in my eyes she is beautiful. And when she spoke of what she wanted her life to become, somehow I knew she would find her way.

"I want to be one of those people who sets an example," she said. "I want to show people what you can bounce back from."



Non-invasive blood flow imager

A PATIENT with herpes simplex type 1 (cold sore) is seen undergoing a lower face examination with a novel high resolution Laser Doppler Imager (LDI) of tissue blood flowing 1-2 mm below the surface of the skin.

The non-invasive instrument (there is no tissue contact involved in its use) was recently developed by a British company, Moor Instruments, for clinical and research applications. These include assessment of burn degree and flap blood flow in plastic surgery, organ reperfusion in transplant surgery, research into breast cancer and assessment of irritants and allergens in dermatology.

Further applications for the Moor Laser Doppler Imager exist in angiology and wound healing, diabetology, rheumatology, neurology, pharmacology and vascular surgery.

The principle of the technique is to direct a low power laser beam, via a moving mirror, at the skin surface or

exposed tissue (such as organs, at operation). The beam executes a raster pattern over the tissue where the light is scattered and the Doppler frequency is shifted by moving blood cells.

As the beam scans the tissue, a colour coded image of blood flow is built up and this can be subsequently processed to obtain quantitative information. The scanning technique employs a continuous moving beam enabling images to be built up quickly — a considerable advantage when measuring the very young or patients in discomfort from painful conditions.

As a result of the unique optical arrangement of the instrument, images can be obtained in daylight during high levels of ambient lighting. This feature, combined with Windows software and a versatile mobile clinical stand, contributes to the convenience and ease of its use — London Press Service.

Britain's national health service is in critical condition

By Allen Nachenberg
Agence France Presse

LONDON — Autumn is the worst time of year to get sick in Britain, and this autumn may be the worst ever.

All over the country, public hospitals are finding themselves caught short with too much year left at the end of their budgets.

They are cancelling all but emergency surgery, shutting down out-patient clinics, eliminating expensive drugs and procedures and generally running on empty.

Typical is Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham, which announced it was ceasing all non-urgent surgery and diagnostic procedures.

"I'm quite sure that in the next months of reduction we will see various cancers being missed, and various other things being missed that have been put off," said the hospital's director, Brian Hopkinson.

"We're issuing an SOS," said Sandy Macrae, chairman of the British Medical Association (BMA).

"What is happening in Nottingham is happening all over the country."

The BMA asked the government for a cash transfusion of £200 million (\$300 million) to keep the National Health Service (NHS) solvent this year.

"We're facing the worst winter for 10 years, and possibly ever," said Jim Johnson, chairman of the BMA's consultants committee. He said wards and operating theatres were being "mothballed" and intensive care beds sitting empty in hospitals nationwide.

In London, several NHS hospitals are on the verge of

closure for lack of funds, and white-coated off-duty medical staff are often seen collecting change in the underground and on street corners to keep them open.

Over a million people are queuing for hospital treatment and the routine wait for such non-emergency surgery as joint replacement, transplants and cataract removal is about two years.

Cancer, burn, dialysis, cardiac and other specialty units are being shut down, and seriously ill patients are being shifted around to other facilities like crates in a warehouse.

BMA surveys show doctors are stressed, depressed, overworked, underpaid and angry, with two-thirds saying they ever entered the profession and ready to quit.

The 48-year-old NHS, long renowned the world over as a paragon of welfare-state efficiency and egalitarianism, is in critical condition, virtually all involved in it agree.

It is "falling away like a crumbling cliff, piece by piece, into the sea," former BMA Chairman Jeremy

Lee-Potter said in 1993 when he passed the gavel to Macrae, who was perceived as more aggressively opposed to the sweeping government reforms being blamed for much of what is wrong with the NHS.

The complex and controversial reforms, brought in by the conservative government of then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the late 1980s, constituted the NHS' first major overhaul since a post-war Labour government created the free-care prototype in 1948.

The intent of the reforms was to streamline and de-

centralise what had become a bloated and unwieldy monster by creating an "internal health care marketplace."

In that marketplace, District Health Authorities (DHAs), using their own per capita-based NHS budgets, negotiate their own contracts with NHS hospitals for the care of their regional populations.

Within the marketplace scheme, the DHAs are the "purchasers," the hospitals the "providers," and the intramural contracting is supposed to create efficient, free-market-style competition.

But something went terribly wrong.

Hospitals, in population-dense areas like London are being deluged with far more patients than they are budgeted for and they run out of money every autumn, according to concurring assessments by several health care sources.

Then, they must get by on skeleton services until the next fiscal year begins on April 1.

The district authorities have similar problems.

"A DHA may be budgeted for 500 hip replacements," explained a BMA spokesman. "Once that is used up, it cannot purchase any more of that operation and those needing it have to wait until

next year, or the year after that."

The system sometimes produces bizarre aberrations, like the go-go dancer who had her breasts enlarged free under the NHS while thousands of elderly patients were waiting in pain for hip replacements.

"It's kind of the luck of the draw, depending on where you live," said the BMA person, who asked not to be named. "Some people die on the waiting list."

British Health Minister Gerry Malone insisted the £200-million bailout being sought was but a minute fraction of the total which hospitals spend, and could be found through efficiency savings.

"Some of the hyperbole we hear, saying the service is near collapse...is absolute nonsense," said Mr. Malone. "It isn't. It's well-managed, doing well, and treating more patients better than ever before."

For those who disagree, a growing option is private health insurance, which guarantees virtually any type of health care, without waiting, since payment is assured to the provider independent of the NHS.

Many large companies in Britain are now increasingly offering such insurance as a fringe benefit.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

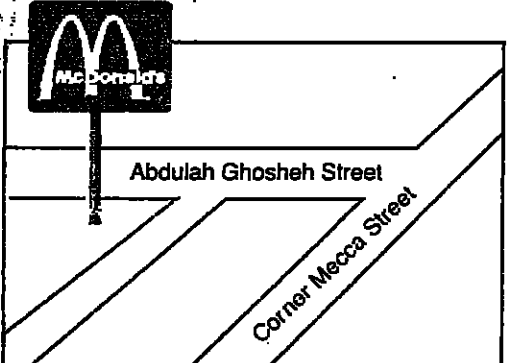
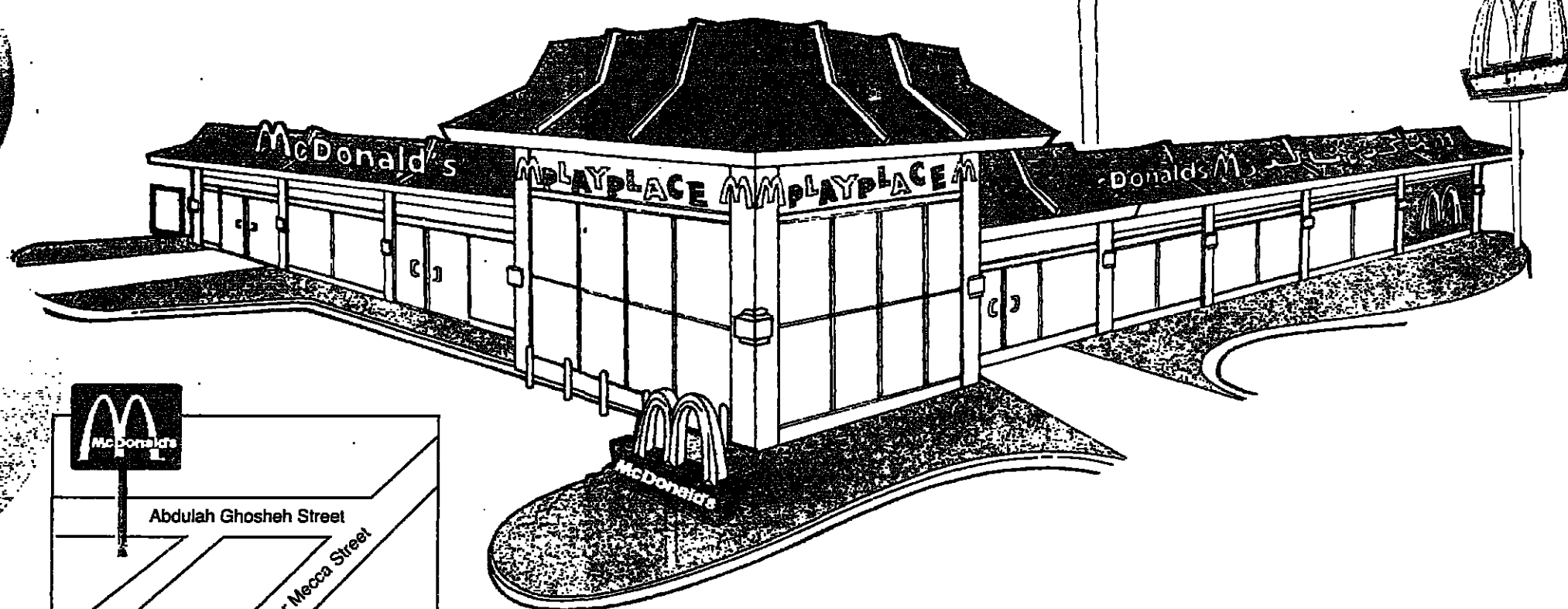
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By Harold B. Counts

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Thrifty Car Rental

Economy

Jordan Times, Thursday-Friday, November 7-8, 1996

Peace process crisis casts cloud over Cairo conference

NICOSIA (AFP) — The third Middle East and North Africa economic conference opens in Cairo next week with the crisis-torn peace process between Israel and its Arab neighbours hovering menacingly in the background.

While organisers have optimistically given the three-day conference a theme of unity — "building an environment in which to do business" — many Arab businessmen have already promised to keep the Israelis out in the cold.

Palestinian industrialists are boycotting the forum to protest the dire economic conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip caused by Israel's crippling closure of the territories.

Both Lebanon and Syria are refusing to send delegations because of the lack of any progress on their tracks of the peace process with Israel, and Egypt's Union of Chambers of Commerce has said it can not take part because of the presence of a large Israeli delegation.

The union insists it wants the conference on Nov. 12-14 to be a success and it urged Arab businessmen to take part but "to avoid any bilateral or multilateral cooperation with Israel."

Publicly, organisers are upbeat, pointing out that 3,000 delegates from 88 countries will attend this year's event — more than at the previous conferences in Amman last year and Casablanca, Morocco, in 1994.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has stressed that Israel will be to blame if the

conference fails to achieve results.

Egyptian foreign ministry spokesman Rauf Saad told AFP his country was "sceptical" about Israel's contribution, but he added that "the conference should not be held hostage to the behaviour of this or that party."

"There is growing concern in the business community. They were building their contacts on the basis of a bright future for peace," he added.

As well as infrastructure ideas put forward by governments, the forum is due to debate three projects adopted at the 1995 conference: A Middle East regional development bank, a regional tourism bureau and a regional chamber of commerce.

A preliminary accord for the setting up of the bank was signed in September, but so far the project has foundered through lack of progress in the peace process.

Both Egypt and the Palestinians walked out of a tourism bureau meeting in protest at Israel's closure of the Palestinian territories, and the chamber of commerce has not met since the February suicide bombings in Israel.

Israel is to be represented by a 100-strong delegation, led by Foreign Minister David Levy, while the Palestinians, Jordan and the Gulf countries are to be represented at ministerial level.

G-15 developing nations attack WTO, vow to resist rich nations

HARARE (AFP) — The group of 15 developing nations ended their sixth summit Tuesday with a strong attack on the World Trade Organisation (WTO), accusing it of failing to live up to expectations.

The three-day summit, just weeks ahead of the WTO's crucial triennial meeting of ministers in Singapore next month, warned wealthy countries against incorporating labour and other social issues into WTO doctrine.

"There are other fora, including the International Labour Organisation, where these matters can be discussed," President Robert Mugabe said.

Rich nations complain that poor labour standards and low wages in developing countries keep their products unfairly cheap, while poor nations want to be allowed to enjoy this competitive advantage.

Speaking at the close of the summit, President Mugabe, the outgoing G-15

chairman, criticised agreements enshrined by the WTO, saying they had brought great misery and suffering to developing nations.

"The WTO agreements that emerged from the Uruguay Round failed to meet our expectations. Our countries continue to face tremendous difficulties in implementing the present agreements," President Mugabe said.

"The future of the world trading system, the legitimacy of the WTO and the prosperity of both developing and developed countries depend on the respect by all nations for established principles and rules of international jurisprudence," he added.

Incoming G-15 chairman, Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia, said: "We see a lot of double standards and selectivity at the international level, as the dictates of domestic politics override justice and humanitarianism in inter-national affairs."

In their closing remarks, other G-15 leaders said they had set great store by the Uruguay Round of negotiations that led to the creation of the WTO, hoping the final outcome would reflect the interests of all participants.

The summit delegates want the December WTO meeting to concentrate on reviewing existing agreements, President Mugabe said.

"The meeting should focus on a search for concrete and meaningful measures to further the implementation of the agreements," he said, urging that particular attention be paid to the least developed countries.

The summit also touched on persistent problems caused by unsustainable levels of indebtedness in developing countries, and urged the multilateral financial institutions to speedily address the problems with flexible solutions.

The leaders further agreed

that governments tackle the rampant problem of corruption, which President Mugabe said "is both a domestic and international menace which affects all countries, developing and developed."

REUTERS • REUTERS • The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLS	FRF
US Dollar	1.5180	0.6095	1.2778	113.93	1.3305	1522.30	1.7028	5.1295	
DE Mark	0.6588		0.4008	0.8418	75.04	0.8760	1.0237	3.3786	
GB Sterling	1.6408			2.0962	186.99	2.1831	2.499.31	2.7957	8.4216
CH Franc	0.7826	118.76	0.4763		89.16	1.0411	1190.23	133.16	4.0142
JP Yen	0.0088	1.3312	0.5342	1.2068		1.1668	13.35	149.26	4.9890
CA Dollar	0.7516	1.1432	0.4554	0.9617	1.17		1148.17	1.2815	3.8821
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9961	0.3994	0.0839	1338.15	0.8731		11.17	3.3665
NL Guilder	0.5873	89.12	0.3577	75.07	66.90	0.7813	893.95		3.0124
FR Franc	0.1950	0.2958	0.1186	24.9026	22.19	0.2593	33.17	33.1700	

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	22.30	22.35
W. Texas	22.65	22.80
Bony	22.30	22.35
Dubai	20.96	20.44
UL Gas	220.00	221.00

Mid-East Currencies				
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4049	0.16249	0.34098
AE Dirham	0.2724	0.41365	0.166	0.34835
KW Dinar	3.3417	5.07357	2.03625	4.2735
BH Dinar	0.3770	0.42739	1.61655	3.39213
CY Pound	2.1559	3.2736	1.3129	2.7542

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	378	378.5
Silver (oz's)	4.78	4.8
Platinum (oz's)	379.75	380.75
AL (3 Months)	1430	1432
CU (3 Months)	1967	1968
Zinc (3 Months)	1060	1061
Lead (3 Months)	742	743
NI (3 Months)	7140	7145

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)						
Period	1 - 3	3 - 6	6 - 9	9 - 12	1 - 3	1 - 3
Cncy	Month	Months	Months	Months	Year	Year
USD	5.34	5.46	5.37	5.52	5.48	5.48
GBP	6.12	6.03	6.40	6.56	6.75	6.75
JPY	0.38	0.37	0.42	0.43	0.56	0.56
DEM	2.98	3.02	3.10	3.18	3.08	3.08
FRF	3.30	3.28	3.42	3.47	3.52	3.52
CHF	1.70	1.84	1.81	1.93	1.93	1.93
ITL	7.68	7.46	7.28	7.00	6.96	6.96

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	121.83	Spot
Cocoa (S/ton)	1335	Spot
Sugar (S/ton)	310.5	Spot
Wheat (S/ton)	140	Spot
Soy (c/lbs)	21.52	Spot
Tea (c/lbs)	117	Spot
Barley (S/ton)	2.04	Spot
Rice (S/ton)	470	Spot

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1843	1.1701
DE Mark	0.4638	0.4661
CH Franc	0.6506	0.5534
FR Franc	0.1373	0.138
JP Yen	0.6184	0.6215
NL Guilder	0.4135	0.4156
IT Lira	0.4631	0.4654

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1996

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A close friend can give you a modern today which can help you to gain some wish which means a great deal to you. This evening will be good for you to spend this time with some knowledgeable people on an important project.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Contact a most prominent person you know today who can guide you on how to best use your finest talents. Later this evening you should consult with knowledgeable fellow associates who will assist you concerning some new task.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Arrange a trip today which could bring you greater success, however don't delay or you could lose out where it counts the most. This evening should be spent with your mate at some special romantic activities.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Improve your image with the public in general today and put your best foot forward on important new career activities. Keep calm, cool and collected concerning some new project which has been assigned by some bigwig.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Forget all those antiquated ideas today and become more modern so that you can get ahead much faster in your career activities. Later tonight will be good for spending some time with close friends.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Begin the new week properly by using novel business systems today and become more efficient and skillful in your duties. This evening you can spend this time with close friends out on the town and have some fun.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get together today with those you trust and act in a positive manner and then you can gain your aims quickly, thereby you can be quite successful. This evening can be spent with your loved ones at home and relax.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) In previous days you decided on a new method of operation for improving your career activities so get busy and try it out today. Later this evening will be good for you to tackle some new project which has been assigned to you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Enjoy a different kind of entertainment which you have not delved into before this today, however watch expenses. This evening can be spent with your loved ones in some special activities which everyone will enjoy.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) All kinds of situations arise at home today, however handle them in a most efficient manner. Be cooperative with family members this evening so that there will not be any difficulties from those in your home.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Use advanced ideas today and you can make your career activities more profitable. Gain the information you need from experts to complete some important new project and gain the respect of some bigwig.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get right into practical plans you have made today and gain success with them. Try to be more modern this evening in your ideas for career activities and you can gain the respect and admiration of someone in authority.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Go after the personal longing which means a great deal to you during the daytime today and get good results. Later this evening will be good for you to go out on the town with your mate and have some fun.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A new, intimate matter may crop up which can make your days ahead brighter, so look at it from this light. This evening you can complete a very important new project with the assistance of a bigwig.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can gain the personal aims which you truly desire to attain by being more progressive. You should dress conservatively today so that you will be noticed by those in authority and thereby be successful.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Use more modern methods of operation in your present career activities today and get far better results with them. Later this evening you can go out on the town with close friends and have a fun time with them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) An early start today in interesting new activities can bring a better set of conditions for you. Delve into simple pleasures with your loved ones this evening and you can have a pleasant time at your residence.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) You suddenly realize how you can handle practical affairs better today and get fine results with them, however, do not disagree at home with your loved ones. Later this evening you can proceed with some special project.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Contacting those today whose ideas are different from your own can help you to better understanding their modern views. This evening you should spend this time with your mate in some very romantic activities and show your care.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) Study your career activities for the new week today and figure out how to handle them so that you can be more efficient. This evening can be spent with close friends in some special activities which you all will enjoy.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Try to get into activities you most enjoy today and perfect them for maximum enjoyment. Seek out good friends this evening and have some fun activities which everyone involved will enjoy themselves and relax.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Let your home be the centre of your attention today and tackle everything from a different angle and gain the approval of your loved ones. Later this evening you can spend some quality time with your mate.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study into the various philosophies of life today which have worked for others and choose the best of these for you. Later this evening you can spend time with close friends in some special activities which everyone will enjoy.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) During spare time today, study just where you stand financially and where property is concerned. Study your newspaper for creative ideas for your career activities and by doing so you can gain prestige and success.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's

By Samir Ghaw...
Special to The Jordan Times

Noting that the total of...
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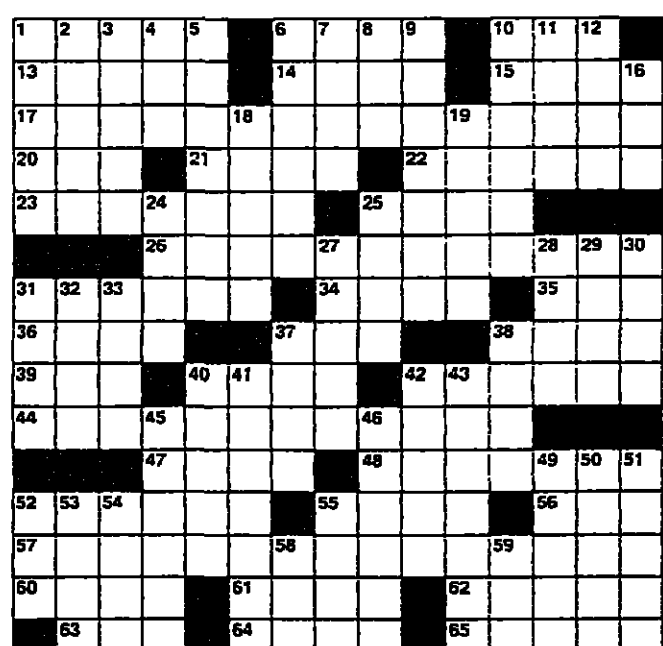
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THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- Glow
 - Foot one's own horn
 - Washington
 - Living character
 - Cowboy's item
 - Make muddy
 - Change for a fin
 - Act properly
 - Piece of mine?
 - Copy
 - Language of the gypsies
 - Unease
 - Telegram
 - Get on the bandwagon
 - Swimming
 - Impulsive
 - By way of
 - African antelope
 - Vagrant
 - Repair
 - Pel's place?
 - Graf —
 - Sound system
 - Toe the line
 - DeValera's land
 - Remarkable
 - Expired
 - Aspiration
 - Butter
 - Go along, in a way
 - Steal
 - Tropical tree
 - Passenger
 - Hankering
 - Offspring
 - Flea-bitten



by Gayle Dean

APED	DIPT	SOLIO
DIANE	PETRA	CROW
ZION	ESSEX	HYDE
EXILIBRIS	ALEXIS	
ZOE	OTTER	
CIADENZA	RITZIER	
HEINZ	GOAL	OLLA
ARA	EZEKIEL	III
ZING	ANAT	AMOUN
ZEELAND	SQUINTS	
ANZAC	AGIT	
BORZOI	ORTHODOX	
ALAI	BERIA	SINOR
SIZIE	AGGER	IONA
HOER	ROIL	SWAY

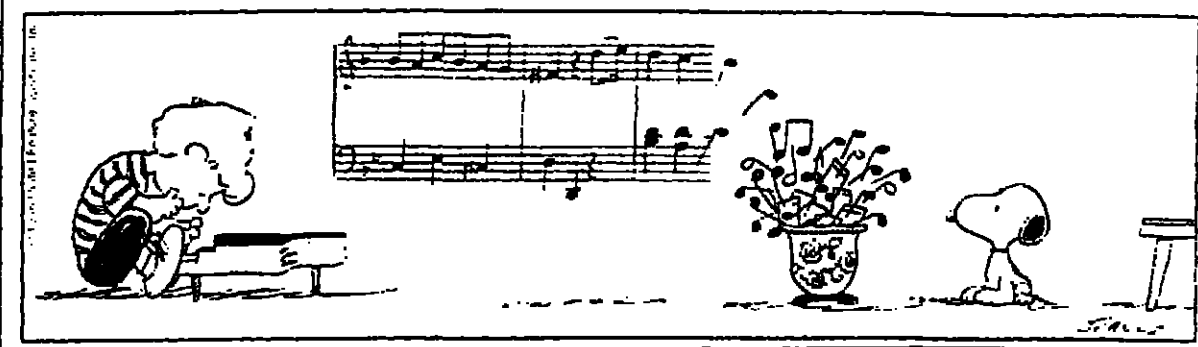
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- DOWN
- One on the bridal path?
 - Zodiac sign
 - Monet's stand?
 - Munched
 - Walter Scott poem
 - German city
 - Lasso
 - Ventilate
 - Rejoices triumphantly
 - Boarder
 - Cuzco native

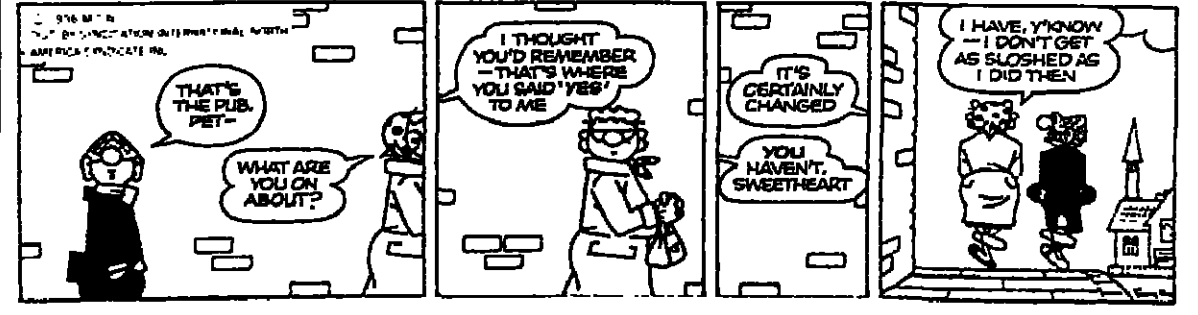
- Laborer
- Devious
- Courtesy call
- Flambeau
- Trojan War hero
- Thud
- More devoted
- Finished
- Juice of the grape
- Pedestal part
- contendere
- Riyadh denizen
- Hunt and peck
- Auxiliary verb
- Butte's kin
- Spread
- Greek sculptor
- Spill clumsily
- Lashes together
- They stoop to
- concur?
- Ties together
- Altar figure
- Put on board

- Fine-grained
- corundum
- WWII vehicle
- Absent
- Tollgate
- Timely question?
- Boxing victory: abbr.
- Neckpiece

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Two banks account for 52% of Jordan's banking sector profits

Following is the second and last part of an article comparing the performance of banks. The first part appeared Wednesday, Nov. 6, 1996

By Samir Ghawi
Special to The Jordan Times

AMMAN — Noting that the total profits of banks in Jordan amounted to about JD86.1 million in 1995, an analysis showed that two banks accounted for JD45.0 million or 52.2 per cent of the total profits.

Prepared by Mufleh Agel, a respected and well-known banker, the analysis covered the performance of 19 banks of which only one, the Philadelphia Investment Bank, posted a loss that amounted JD1.2 million.

The first bank that topped the list of profits was the Arab Bank which, at JD34.7 million, alone generated the combined profits of the five banks which ranked below it. The banks were: The Housing Bank (JD10.3 million), the Jordan Islamic Bank (JD5.8 million), the Jordan National Bank (JD5.7 million), the BritishBank (JD5.4 million), the Bank of Jordan (JD4.9 million) and the Cairo Amman Bank which, in seventh place, registered a JD3.6 million profit last year.

The banks that posted profits below the one million mark were: The Business Bank (JD0.4 million), the Union Bank for Saving and Investment (JD0.3 million) and the Middle East Investment Bank (JD0.2 million).

Measuring the profit against equity, paid-up capital and assets, the BritishBank led in all the three categories as it achieved a 53.7 per cent return on equity, 108 per cent return on paid-up-capital and three per cent return on investment (assets).

With a 44.1 per cent return on equity the Arab Bank ranked in second place and was followed by ANZ Grindlays (26.5 per cent), the Bank of Jordan (21.5 per cent), the Jordan Investment Finance Bank (18.2 per cent), the Cairo Amman Bank (18.2 per cent) and the Housing Bank (16.9 per cent).

The Arab Bank was also in second place in terms of return on paid-up-capital with a 78.9 per cent rate. The analysis showed also the Housing Bank (55.7 per cent), ANZ Grindlays (48.0 per cent), the Bank of Jordan (46.7 per cent), the Jordan Islamic Bank (39.7 per cent), the Cairo Amman Bank (36.0 per cent) and the Jordan National Bank (35.6 per cent).

With a 2.3 per cent return on investment (assets), the Jordan Gulf Bank ranked second and was followed by the Jordan National Bank (two per cent),

the Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan) (1.5 per cent), ANZ Grindlays (1.5 per cent), the Arab Bank (1.5 per cent), the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank (1.4 per cent) and Citibank (1.2 per cent).

Mr. Mufleh listed only five banks which distributed dividends last year. The highest dividend was 35 per cent distributed by the Arab Bank followed by the Housing Bank (20 per cent), the Cairo Amman Bank (15 per cent), the Jordan National Bank (14 per cent) and the Jordan Gulf Bank (seven per cent).

Rating the banks in terms of efficiency, which is the result of dividing expenses less interest by net income before tax, the list was topped by the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank which ranked in 19th place in 1994. Coming up from 10th place in 1994 to second place in 1995 was the BritishBank. Ranking third was the Arab Bank which was in first place in 1994. The amounts of the top three banks was JD731, JD 815 and JD1,254 respectively. Down the list were the Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan) (JD1,500), Citibank (JD1,667) and the Arab-Jordan Investment Bank (JD1,708).

Trailing the list in terms of efficiency were the Business Bank (JD 12,500), the Union Bank for Saving and Investment (JD28,000), the Arab Land Bank and the Philadelphia Investment Bank.

The BritishBank led all banks when they were rated on the net pretax income per employee as it topped the list with JD29,670. The Jordan Investment and Finance Bank which ranked first in 1994 came in second place with JD25,743 in 1995. Citibank, the Bank of Jordan and the Arab Bank followed with JD 19,048, JD16,955 and JD15,838 respectively.

Recording less than the JD7,463 average were the following ten banks: The Jordan Islamic Bank (JD5,156), the Jordan Gulf Bank (JD4,789), the Housing Bank (JD4,419), the Cairo Amman Bank (JD4,332), the Jordan Kuwait Bank (JD2,711), the Business Bank (JD1,810), the Middle East Investment Bank (JD1,758), the Union Bank for Saving and Investment (JD692), the Arab Land Bank (0) and the Philadelphia Investment Bank (JD-9,449).

The last comparison was in measuring the average assets per employee. In this category the order was as follows: The Jordan Investment and Finance Bank (JD1.84 million), Citibank (JD1.63 million), the Bank of Jordan (JD1.46 million), the Arab Bank (JD 1.08 million), the BritishBank (JD0.99 million) and ANZ Grindlays (JD0.82 million).

The last banks were the Arab Land Bank (JD0.26 million), the Jordan Gulf Bank (JD 0.21 million) and the Middle East Investment Bank (JD 0.19 million).

Daily Beat

Grappo describes Jordan's customs procedures as 'nightmare'

**** GARY GRAPPO**, the economic attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, unveiled in a lecture that a \$30 million U.S. fund will be set up in Jordan and that an announcement to that effect will be made soon. The fund will support Jordanian medium-size projects that are capitalised at between \$150,000 to \$200,000, he said.

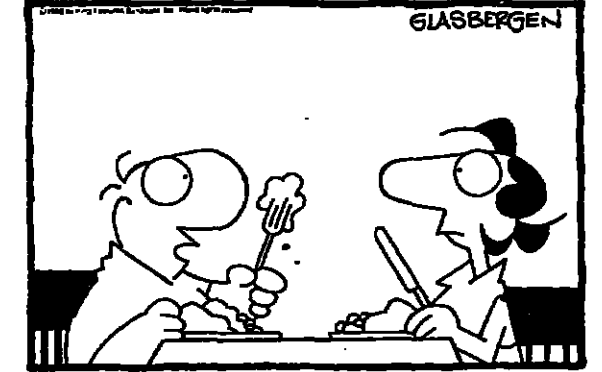
Mr. Grappo stressed that the fund aims at reducing unemployment by creating new work opportunities and at encouraging joint American-Jordanian cooperation. The USAID (United States Agency for International Development) in Amman is believed to be undertaking the establishment procedures as the fund will be one of its schemes in Jordan.

The U.S. official said Jordan enjoys all the elements to attract investments especially the stability, security and low labour costs. But, he added, there are some problems that obstruct the flow of these investments such as bureaucracy and customs measures and procedures. He described the customs procedures in the Kingdom as a "nightmare" to Jordanian, American and other businessmen. Other barriers that hinder investments, according to Mr. Grappo, are the absence of a law to protect intellectual property rights and the government interference in fixing prices.

Mr. Grappo told his audience that U.S. ambassadors explained to American businessmen during a recent tour that "the picture in Jordan was changing fast" and that the government is anticipated in a short period to free prices and to withdraw from the process of price-fixing.

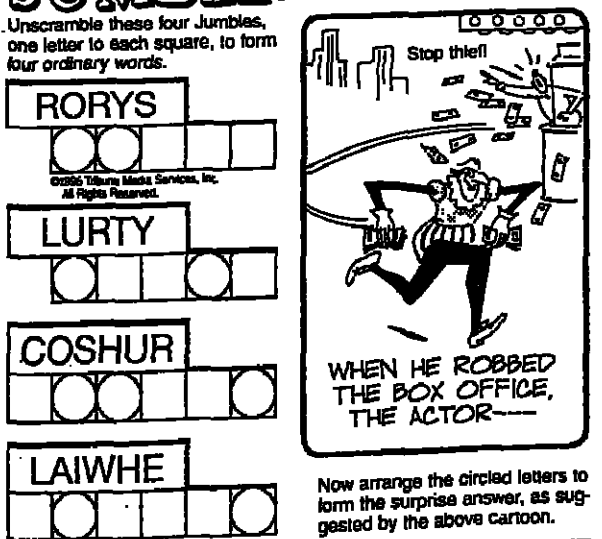
He mentioned that there are many promising investment opportunities for U.S. businessmen, particularly in the sectors of energy, communication, electricity and tourism in addition to infrastructure. Mr. Grappo emphasised the need for aggressive marketing as many U.S. businessmen are not aware of the opportunities, especially in the fields of tourism (Al Aswaj).

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"When I agree with you, I'm politically correct. When I disagree with you, I'm politically incorrect. Is that how it works?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Print answer here: _____ THE _____
(Answers Monday)
Yesterday's Jumble: CAPON HUMID LAYOFF VERBAL
Answer: For a bighead this isn't when it is - A DAY AT THE BEACH

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 06/11/1996											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
252,000	205,000	ARAB BANK	13.5	1.42	4	420	103350	246.00	246.50	-.50	
1,250	.880	MID-EAST INV. BK.	68.3	0.00	14	5650	5879	1.05	1.04	-.01	
2,700	2,120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.2	6.13	4	650	2472	2.27	2.27	-	
5,250	4,250	THE HOUSING BK.	13.1	2.82	13	10213	50656	4.90	4.90	-	
3,040	2,450	JOR. KUWAIT BANK	18.5	0.00	4	466	1157	2.60	2.55	-.05	
1,200	.890	JOR. GULF BANK	5.4	7.78	7	15750	14175	.50	.50	-	
4,180	3,300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.9	0.00	2	650	3524	3.72	3.72	-	
3,800	3,000	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	17.3	0.00	1	1000	3200	3.20	3.20	-	
5,950	4,450	ARAB BANKING CO.	23.3	0.00	2	800	3600	4.50	4.50	-	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 189.09	CHNG: +0.11	53	36064	187182				
2,910	1,840	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.2	10.87	1	550	1012	1.84	1.84	-	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 118.15	CHNG: 0.00	1	550	1012				
1,900	1,450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.0	7.55	9	2335	3687	1.58	1.58	-	
9,250	8,750	JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	17.9	1.98	1	800	4155	8.75	8.75	-.44	
1,990	1,080	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	15	3900	4490	1.16	1.15	-.01	
3,660	3,130	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	13.5	5.85	3	2800	9576	3.42	3.42	-	
1,230	.950	BARA EDUCATION	0.00	0.00	3	1000	1062	1.07	1.08	-.01	
2,430	1,700	UNIFIED CO.	9.1	5.78	3	782	1350	1.73	1.73	-	
1,700	.820	UNION LAND DEV.	E	0.00	3	800	698	.88	.89	-.01	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 110.34	CHNG: -0.03	38	13141	25039				
3,770	3,060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	18.9	3.03	8	3192	10521	3.30	3.30	-	
10,550	8,750	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	9.2	8.79	7	406	3728	9.16	9.10	-.06	
1,590	1,150	MOULIN INDUSTRIES	54.2	0.00	1	250	305	1.21	1.22	-.01	
8,150	6,420	JOR. WOODEN MILLS	8.8	3.62	2	1100	7590	6.93	6.90	-.03	
4,970	3,130	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	17.7	6.19	16	3293	10620	3.22	3.23	-.01	
8,000	4,250	DAR ALKHAIRI DEV. INV.	12.5	4.40	2	200	905	4.55	4.55	-	
.960	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	33	43000	25001	.58	.58	-	
1,090	.570	NATIONAL INDS.	8.6	10.34	5	2300	1334	.59	.58	-.01	
1,840	.940	INVESTED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	12	4750	4580	.94	.98	-.04	
1,350	.770	JOR. SILICO. CHEM.	9	0.00	1	200	158	.77	.79	-.02	
1,950	1,080	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	22.1	0.00	1	250	295	1.17	1.18	-.01	
3,280	1,470	UNION. BORD. INDS.	4.5	13.61	4	2000	2945	1.47	1.47	-	
2,100	1,140	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	17.1	0.00	5	1350	1689	1.36	1.36	-	
1,560	.890	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	24.2	0.00	2	1300	1157	.89	.89	-	
1,460	1,080	INTL. TOBACCO	25.6	0.00	14	10250	11130	1.09	1.09	-	
2,040	.990	UNION CH. & VEG.	24.1	0.00	1	250	245	.99	.98	-.01	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 110.25	CHNG: -0.02	115	73993	82203				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 147.74	CHNG: +0.06	207	122748	295436				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 06/11/1996											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
.790	.440	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	19.3	0.00	7	2550	1219	.46	.48	-.02	
.800	.560	JOR. TRADE FAC.	14.9	0.00	3	1250	700	.56	.56	-	
.930	.700	UNION INV. SEC.	59.8	0.00	10	8600	1912	.71	.73	-.02	
1,110	.450	ARAB FID. INVEST.	9	0.00	32	112450	52035	.46	.47	-.01	
.950	.730	AL-DAMIRY 75	9	0.00	9	4699	2246	.73	.73	-	
.640	.340	JOR. INDS. MATCH-VEHCO	9	0.00	5	26750	9630	.34	.36	-.02	
.870	.510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	E	0.00	5	4400	2696	.62	.62	-	
1,760	1,340	NATL. CHLORINE	E	0.00	4	1600	2132	1.34	1.34	-	
.700	.450	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	9	0.00	2	1100	551	.49	.51	-.02	
1,000	.520	NATL. TEXTILE	E	0.00	1	250	150	.51	.50	-.01	
1,100	.490	NATL. BUILT. ENG. NAWICO	E	0.00	39	43903	21628	.50	.49	-.01	
1,080	.750	JOR. STEEL	E	0.00	4	900	684	.76	.76	-	
.780	.430	ARAB ELECT. INDS.	P	0.00	1	4500	2150	.48	.48	-	
1,400	1,100	UNION TOBACCO 75	E	0.00	3	788	684	1.13	1.08	-.05	
.840	.600	RATL PHARM. 65	E	0.00	13	12900	3225	.60	.60	-	
.830	.420	INDS. ENG.	27.1	0.00	15	21700	9336	.42	.44	-.02	
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1,500	.530	MID-EAST COMPLEX	8.0	0.00	12	19250	13168	.69	.68	-.01	
GRAND TOTAL			174	401838	230585						

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 * Listed during the past 12 months
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Edberg ends singles career on emotional note

STOCKHOLM (R) — Stefan Edberg received an emotional farewell as his tournament singles career ended Tuesday with a disappointing first-round exit in the Stockholm Open.

In an 80-minute match in front of a packed arena, Nicklas Kulti defeated fellow Swede and former world No. 1 Edberg 7-6 6-3.

Edberg, 30, said he has been playing quite well but admitted he felt the pressure as he took to the centre court for the last time in his 14-year singles career.

"I felt a little slower than normal. There was a little tension when I walked out onto the court," Edberg told a news conference at Stockholm's Royal Tennis Club.

"I don't think I played too badly tonight but I played against a guy who was really hot."

Edberg said it was a bit disappointing to be knocked out in the first round of his last singles tournament before retirement.

He lost a tight first set after it went to a tie-break, which the big-serving Kulti took 7-5.

But Edberg's fate was sealed in the fourth game of the second set when Kulti broke his serve.

"I had hopes coming into this tournament and felt quite good about myself," said Edberg, who was seated in a rocking chair at the news conference.

"It was a pity."

Although the Stockholm Open was Edberg's last singles tournament, he reaffirmed he was still hoping to be chosen for the Swedish squad to play in the Davis Cup final against France in Malmo, southern Sweden, in late November.

"So it is not quite over," he said.

Edberg announced his retirement from competitive tennis at the end of 1995. He wants to spend more time with his wife Annette



Swedish tennis player Stefan Edberg holds flowers while sitting in a chair given to him after his last international singles match. Edberg lost his last match to countryman Nicklas Kulti 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 (Reuters photo)

and three-year-old daughter Emilie, with whom he lives in London, and pursue some other interests.

"There is a lot of things up in the air," he said.

As he shook hands over the Stockholm net for the last time, the crowd rose in a standing ovation to the tennis player who has become a national sporting hero.

Edberg's first win was in Milan in 1984 after he was discovered by Percy Rosberg, who also coached compatriot Bjorn Borg.

He never looked back. In 1,075 games, he has notched 806 wins, with 41 tournament victories including six grand slams — Wimbledon in 1988 and 1990, the U.S. Open 1991 and 1992, and the Australian Open in 1987 and 1990.

Edberg was ranked world No. 1 in 1990 and 1991, and has been on the Davis Cup-winning team three times, in 1984, 1985 and 1994.

His earnings from tennis have been estimated at \$20.7 million from which Edberg has set up his own foundation in Sweden to

help sponsor Young, aspiring tennis players.

After his match ended, the crowd and officials paid tribute to Edberg, with drummers, flag bearers, and ball girls carrying red roses congratulating him before he left the court for a final time.

"It was a little heartbreaking because there are so many emotions involved. There are so many things that rush through your head," Edberg said.

"At the same time I was also a little relieved that this part of playing tournaments is over."

Germans investigating 50 GDR drug cheats

BERLIN (R) — German public prosecutors are investigating around 50 people for allegedly using banned drugs to boost the performances of Olympic athletes in the former East Germany.

The Communist state, which boasted remarkable success at both summer and winter Olympics, was known to have developed a systematic programme of drug-taking to help athletes cheat their way to glory.

Berlin senate officials said doctors, team officials and members of the state security police — the Stasi — were

among those being investigated by the city's public prosecutors.

In recent years several former GDR athletes have said they have suffered health problems because of steroid abuse.

Stasi documents have revealed that the GDR even set up a secret medical facility at the 1976 Montreal Games where athletes were given performance-enhancing drugs, German officials said.

Referees back plans for complete back-pass ban

BONN (R) — FIFA, soccer's governing body, is considering a complete ban on players returning the ball back to the goalkeeper.

At a meeting in Zurich on Tuesday, FIFA referees welcomed proposed rule changes which would ban back-passes from every part of the body, the German news agency SID reported.

At the moment players are allowed to head or chest the ball back to the keeper but not kick it back.

Any change in the law would have to be made by FIFA's international board which is next due to meet in Belfast on March 1.

Eintracht in crisis after tax probe

FRANKFURT (R) — German second-division side Eintracht Frankfurt was thrown into crisis on Tuesday when both its chairman and treasurer quit after tax authorities began an investigation into irregularities at the club.

Eintracht managing director Detlef Romeiko said Frankfurt public prosecutors were investigating tax irregularities relating to alleged payments to the club's former Ghanaian striker Tony Yeboah who now plays in England for Leeds United.

The investigation involved four people, the club said.

Earlier on Tuesday, Eintracht chairman Hans-Joachim Otto and treasurer Bernd that resigned their positions at the troubled club which was relegated from the first division last season.

The board of the club, which has debts of around 7 million marks, said that it had no knowledge of any payments to Yeboah and did not know how long the investigation at the former UEFA cup winners would last.

But the club said in a statement: "The current board of Eintracht Frankfurt is not in a position to introduce its planned restructuring programme in the near future to secure a basis for the sporting and economic development of the club."

The announcement comes as bad news for Eintracht fans who have watched their team slip from first division title contenders and European campaigners at the start of the 1990s to the current position in the bottom half of the second division.

Abedi back to boost black stars

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Ghana's bid to reach their first-ever World Cup finals will be boosted by the return of inspirational captain Abedi Pele for the weekend's qualifying match against Gabon in Libreville.

The 32-year-old captain, now playing in Germany's Bundesliga with 1860 Munich, is set to lead his country in their group five encounter on Sunday for the first time since January.

The match is one of 10 African World Cup qualifiers to be played this weekend at the start of the final round group competition.

Ghana's black stars have won more African competitions than any other country but never progressed to the finals of the World Cup and their youthful side has shown a marked dip in form this year with a patchy record of seven wins in 17 international encounters in 1996.

Four of those victories came under the captaincy of Abedi during the African Nations Cup finals at the start of the year but he has not played for his country since being injured in the tournament's quarter-finals against Zaire in January.

His return on Sunday will come as a major boost to the team, who still have to do without their injured English-based striker Tony Yeboah.

"I'm calling up the strongest team I can possibly muster," said coach Sam Arday. "It's a game we have to win."

Morocco host Sierra Leone in the group's other match in Rabat on Sunday knowing their opponents have had just a week to get their team together for the match.

Sierra Leone, who lost 2-0 on aggregate to Burundi in the preliminary round in June, were included in the group last week after the withdrawal of the tiny east African country from the qualifiers.

Burundi, hit by United Nations sanctions after a military coup in July, have been unable to overcome a ban on air travel from their country.

Nigeria, who finished top of their opening round group at the last World Cup finals in the United States in 1994, play their first home match in exactly a year when they meet Burkina Faso in a group one game in

Lagos on Saturday.

The Nigerians beat their west African opponents 7-1 in their last meeting five years ago but the match led to the sacking of the football association's executive after team officials forgot to pack the players' shorts and Nigerian team had to play the game in cut-off track suit pants.

Nigeria, the Olympic champions, have enlarged their squad to 24 by inviting English division three club Leyton Orient midfielder Samuel Ayorinde and four others.

"We decided to increase the number invited for the game to give everyone a chance to prove his worth," coach Amodu Shaibu said.

Kenya travel to Guinea in the other group one encounter with a new coach in German-born Reinhard Fabisch, appointed to the post just a week ago.

"It's going to be an uphill task as we've only been together five or six days," said the former coach of Zimbabwe.

Cameron also have a new coach in Louis Depireux for their encounter in Togo on Sunday in group four while Scotsman Ian Porterfield will be taking charge of Zimbabwe for the first time when they travel to Angola.

African champions South Africa host Zaire in Johannesburg in group three still buoyant after their Nations Cup win in February. Coach Clive Barker has a full squad, including 10 foreign-based players, to choose from against a Mercurial Zairian side who have been training in Turkey.

Liberia, still suffering from a damaging civil war, will play a second successive 'home' qualifying match in neighbouring Ghana.

The lone stars, captained by world footballer of the year George Weah, host Tunisia in Accra, the same venue where they beat the Gambia 4-0 in a preliminary round qualifier in June.

Other ties see Egypt fancied to end Namibia's eight-match unbeaten run in Cairo in their group two encounter on Friday while Congo host Zambia in group three on Sunday.

Atkinson stepped down as manager following Gordon Strachan's takeover of the Scotland national team.

Atkinson, who was sacked in February 1995, was the club's manager for over a year.

Atkinson's departure was a blow to the club's fans, who had been hoping for a return to the top of Scottish football.

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Chevening Scholarships are normally awarded for Masters degrees, although they can be awarded for other courses. Applications for PhD degrees, medicine and dentistry will not be considered. Candidates are encouraged to apply in humanities subjects and in applied sciences.
Application forms can be collected from the British Embassy or the British Council in Amman during the period 3-17 November 1996. Closing dates for the receipt of applications is 21 November 1996. All papers submitted must be photocopies and not originals and cannot be reclaimed.
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The bidding
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead. Five of 0
Suppose you were South, declaring this hand at three no trump. West leads a low diamond, on which East plays the queen. How would you proceed?
You have reached your game in textbook style. The opening bid was classic and partner, with 11 high-card points and no four-card or longer major, was interested in

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K 10 8 4
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A 10 8 4

WEST
A 8 8
K 10 8 3
Q 8 4
A 10 8 2
K 7 6

EAST
A 10 8 3
K 7 6
Q 8 4
A 8 8

SOUTH
A 8 8
K 7 6
Q 8 4
A 8 8

The bidding
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead. Five of 0
Suppose you were South, declaring this hand at three no trump. West leads a low diamond, on which East plays the queen. How would you proceed?
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Ferrari extends Schumacher's contract

MARANELLO, Italy (R) — Former world champion Michael Schumacher has extended his contract with Ferrari to the end of the 1999 season, the Italian Formula One team said in a statement on Tuesday.

Schumacher joined Ferrari in 1995 and helped the team take second place in the Formula One constructors' world championship this season. His contract was due to expire at the end of the 1997 season.

"Ferrari has reached an accord with driver Michael Schumacher to extend (his contract) through the 1998, 1999 seasons," the statement said.

It said Briton Eddie Irvine would carry on as the team's second driver next season and added that his contract would include an option covering 1998.

Ferrari gave no financial details of the deal. Schumacher won three races with Ferrari last season and finished third in the drivers' championship. The German's two world titles were won with the Benetton team.

Hingis advances in Oakland

OAKLAND (R) — Sixteen-year-old Swiss phenom Martina Hingis, seeded third at the \$450,000 Bank of the West Classic, posted a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Anne Miller in an opening-round match Tuesday.

Hingis, who has defeated eight top 10 players this year, had little trouble with the 66th-ranked Miller, but felt she won the match with her head and not her groundstrokes.

"She gave me a hard time," said Hingis, ranked seventh in the world. "The surface was slow and I found myself running over balls and overhitting. I won this match with the head and mental part. I didn't really feel very good about my groundstrokes."

Hingis was down a break at 3-1 in the first, but regained her momentum with consecutive love

games to even the score before pulling out the first set with a drop volley, her shot Du Jour. In the second, she lost her serve twice, but broke Miller in the final game to advance to the quarter-finals.

"It was close the whole time and I felt I was right in there," Miller said. "When I got up I just started making more errors. And I had a few double faults that hurt me."

Miller had six double faults, one of which cost her the first set.

Thirty-four-year-old Pam Shriver, a late wildcard entry, pulled out a tough three-set win against Rennae Stubbs 6-2 6-7 (5) 6-3. Shriver, ranked 229th in the world and playing in only her 12th match of the year, conceded she is gradually closing out her career.

"I've made a point to not say I'm retiring," Shriver

said. "I'm just making a transition. I can still have wins on this tour, just not successively."

Tuesday's only upset was Romanian Irina Spirlea's 6-4 6-2 first-round victory over eighth seed Karina Habsudova of Slovakia, who became the third seed to fall in two days.

After blowing a 3-0 lead in the third, Canadian Patricia Hy-Boulais had to battle back from 3-5 to beat American Zina Garrison Jackson, a two-time winner of this event, 6-4 6-7 (7-4) 6-4.

Top-seeded Monica Seles will make her first appearance in Oakland since 1992, facing Hy-Boulais on Wednesday. Seles, co-ranked second in the world, won here in 1990 and 1992, both times beating Martina Navratilova in the final.

Lakers beat Knicks down the stretch

NEW YORK (R) — Shaquille O'Neal and the Los Angeles Lakers beat Patrick Ewing and the New York Knicks down the stretch Tuesday for a 98-92 win in an early-season battle of rebuilt teams with big dreams about the end of the season.

The Lakers used a 13-4 run in the final four minutes to break open an 82-82 game. Nick Van Exel's three-pointer with 39 seconds remaining and the shot clock expiring capped the run and lifted the Lakers to their third straight victory.

"It felt perfect when it left my hand and most of them don't feel that way, but this one did," Van Exel said.

Van Exel, who had seven points in the Spurt and hit four free throws to seal the victory, had been just 2-for-10 from the field before the last-second three-pointer.

O'Neal, the Lakers' \$123 million man pried away from the Orlando Magic in the off-season, hit a key fallaway jumper with 95 seconds left and finished with 26 points, 13 rebounds and five blocks. Cedric Ceballos added 18 points.

"We played well," said O'Neal. "And we played together."

Ewing had 21 points for New York, which lost for the first time in three games. Allan Houston added 19 points and Charles Oakley had 17 and 11 rebounds in his first appearance of the season after a two-game suspension.

The Lakers snapped a four-game losing streak in New York, winning at Madison Square Garden for the first time since March 10, 1992. The Knicks lost to Los Angeles for just the second time in their last nine meetings.

Larry Johnson, one of the Knicks' key acquisitions in putting together a team with three new starters, was



Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan (R) moves past Vancouver Grizzlies' George Lynch in the first quarter of game in Chicago. The Bulls won 96 to 73 (Reuters photo)

just 3-for-8 from the foul line and missed a pair of key free throws before Van Exel's three-pointer.

In Chicago, Michael Jordan scored 22 points, Toni Kukoc and Scottie Pippen added 14 apiece and Dennis Rodman had 13 points and 19 rebounds as the Chicago Bulls beat the Vancouver Grizzlies 96-73.

"They are world champions because of the way they played tonight," Grizzlies

coach Brian Winters said. "They're good offensively and terrific defensively. They went up about 10 points and then they put the defensive pressure on us."

In Seattle, Steve Smith scored 27 points as the Atlanta Hawks, playing for the fourth time in five days, routed the Supersonics, last season's finals runner-ups, 117-95. Mookie-Blaylock scored 21 points and Willie

Burton 20 for Atlanta (2-2). Gary Payton scored 24 points, Shawn Kemp 23 and former Hawk Craig Ehlo 12 for Seattle (1-2), which had a 13-game home win streak snapped.

The teams tied an NBA record of 62 three-point attempts in a regulation game, set last February by Dallas and Philadelphia. The record for most three-pointers hoisted in a game

regardless of length is 64.

In Sacramento, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 34 points and Charles Barkley added 16 points and 12 rebounds as the Houston Rockets thumped the Sacramento Kings 102-80.

Houston, the only 4-0 team in the league, defeated the Kings for the second time in five days.

In Cleveland, Sean Elliott scored five of his 17 points in the final 48 seconds and the San Antonio Spurs produced a 16-3 run in the fourth quarter to rally past the Cavaliers 74-68.

In Philadelphia, Grant Hill scored eight points in a game-ending 14-2 run, including two free throws with 2.8 seconds remaining, as the undefeated Detroit Pistons scored an 83-81 victory over the winless 76ers.

Hill had 22 points, 14 rebounds and fell one assist shy of a triple-double.

In Denver, Stanley Roberts scored nine of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and Terry Dehere sank two key free throws with 15 seconds left as the Los Angeles Clippers rallied for an 82-78 victory over the Nuggets.

In Dallas, Walt Williams poured in 34 points and Damon Stoudamire scored three of his 28 points in the final 44 seconds as the Toronto Raptors posted their first win of the year, 100-96 over the Mavericks. Toronto had trailed by as many as 18 points.

In Phoenix, Tom Gugliotta scored 19 points and James Robinson's three-pointer with 79 seconds remaining put the Minnesota Timberwolves ahead for good in a 98-95 victory over the Suns.

At Golden State, Rasheed Wallace scored 10 of his 32 points in a key 17-4 third-quarter run as the Portland Trail Blazers routed the Warriors 111-93.

Atkinson steps down early as Strachan takes over at Coventry

LONDON (R) — Ron Atkinson stepped down on Tuesday as manager of struggling Coventry city, handing over to his assistant Gordon Strachan.

Atkinson, who was appointed as Coventry boss in February 1995, now becomes the club's director of football.

Strachan had been set to take over the manager's seat at the end of the season with Atkinson moving upstairs.

But Coventry chairman Bryan Richardson said on Tuesday that Atkinson had seen him last week and asked for the arrangement to be brought forward.

Richardson denied that Atkinson, whose side have made a poor start to the season, had been sacked or had jumped before he was pushed.

"He was not sacked at all," Richardson told BBC radio. "He came and approached me at the end of last week to discuss the idea of Gordon taking over the running of the team."

"All we've done is bring forward exactly what we said before. It was his original idea that when Gordon came to us that there was this absolute and firm plan."

Strachan, a former Scotland international, has been playing in reserve team games while also operating as the club's assistant manager.

Last month both Atkinson and Strachan were disciplined for misconduct.

Strachan was fined 2,000 pounds (\$3,275) for refusing to leave the pitch after being sent off while playing against West Bromwich Albion. Atkinson was fined 750 pounds (\$1,230) for comments made to the referee.

Coventry have been in the top flight since 1967 but have often had to struggle to retain that status. This season, they have won only one of their 12 league matches and are two from the bottom of the table after a 1-1 draw at Everton on Monday.

Strachan, 39, started his

career as a player with Dundee. In 1984, Atkinson, then Manchester United manager, signed him for 500,000 pounds (\$820,000). The pair were re-united at Coventry in March last year.

Strachan's greatest moment came in 1992 when he captained Leeds United to the league title, just pipping his old club Manchester United.

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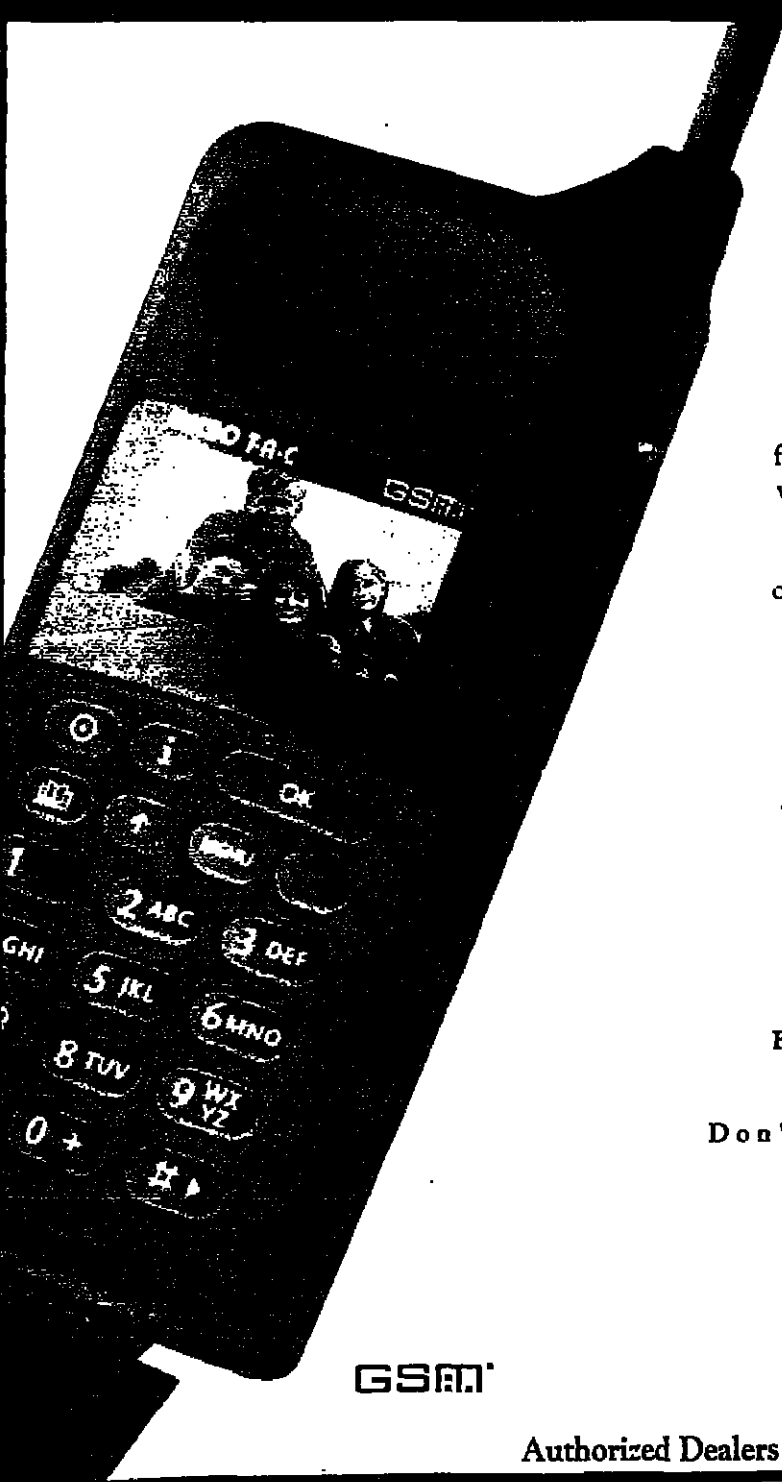
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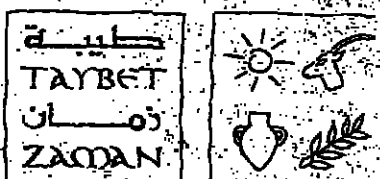
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Congratulations pour in after Clinton reelection

PARIS (AFP) — Congratulations poured in from around the world for Bill Clinton whose first four years in the White House brought him a mixed bag of foreign policy highs and lows.

French President Jacques Chirac effusively congratulated Mr. Clinton on "the joyful news" of his election victory, calling him "my dear Bill" and saying no one was more delighted.

"I have often had occasion to appreciate your wise statesmanship, your vision of our common future, your keen sense of the interests of the Western community, but also the warmth, the simplicity, the humanity of your manner," Mr. Chirac's message said.

British Prime Minister John Major said Mr. Clinton had "won a resounding vote of confidence from the American people."

Mr. Major said he looked forward "to continuing to work closely with the president over the next four years."

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton hailed the president as "a great, good and consistent friend of Ireland."

Other European leaders often highlighted the role the United States is expected to play in bringing in new North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members from eastern Europe while breaking down lingering Russian objections.

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said he hoped Mr. Clinton's reelection would lead to increased bilateral cooperation.

"As the Russian government has experience in dealing with the current president of the United States, Russia hopes that cooperation between the two countries will increase in the future," Mr. Primakov said in an Interfax news agency report.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is recovering from a massive open heart operation done Tuesday, was to send a congratulatory message later Wednesday.

Mr. Clinton had sent a message Tuesday to Mr. Yeltsin wishing him a complete and rapid recovery.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told Mr. Clinton in a congratulations message that his reelection was a tribute to the success of his previous four-year term and a mark of the American people's confidence in him.

German President Roman Herzog said it was important for the United States and Germany to continue their cooperation within NATO.

"We are confident that German-American friendship will continue on a solid basis," Mr. Herzog said in a written statement.

NATO Secretary General Javier Solana said he was "happy to continue close cooperation with the Clinton administration during his second term to prepare the venue next year of a successful summit of NATO heads of state and government."

Informed sources in Brussels said Mr. Solana would travel to Washington later this month to discuss NATO enlargement and the alliance's relations with Russia.

Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi said U.S. leadership was a "factor of solidarity and security in a world unsettled by uncertainty and concern."

Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini said he did not expect major changes to U.S. economic and foreign policies after Mr. Clinton's reelection.

Austrian President Thomas Klestil said the decision of U.S. voters was an important sign of the continuity of U.S. foreign and security policy, notably in Bosnia.

Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said he hoped that the strengthening of Mr. Clinton's position after his victory "can resolve a series of international problems," including U.S. financial and political reservations toward the United Nations.

Zoran Ljilic, the president of rump Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro — said he was "sure that we will see the continuation of your policy of fruitful cooperation, which our two countries have realised by implementing the peace process, and the reinforcement of the traditional ties of friendship between the federal republic of Yugoslavia and the United States."

Norwegian Prime Minister Thorbjørn Jagland said Mr. Clinton's reelection was proof that "a majority of Americans is better off today than four years ago."

In Poland, President Aleksander Kwasniewski hailed Mr. Clinton's support for bids by eastern European countries to join NATO.

Czech President Vaclav Havel hailed Mr. Clinton's commitment to creating "bases of new stability throughout the European-Atlantic space."

From ally Japan to former enemy Vietnam, Asian nations congratulated Mr. Clinton though few gave any indication that trade and strategic problems could be resolved any faster as a result.

Japan vowed to cooperate "closely" with Mr. Clinton, with the aim of achieving "even greater peace and prosperity" in the Asia-Pacific region.

China, whose relations with the U.S. during Mr. Clinton's first term sank to their lowest level since the 1979 establishment of diplomatic ties, issued a brief congratulatory note.

"A good opportunity has presented itself for improving and expanding Sino-U.S. relations. We are ready to work with the U.S. side for further development," a foreign ministry spokeswoman said.

Taiwan's government joined industrial and business leaders on the nationalist island in welcoming Mr. Clinton's reelection, but called on Washington not to conduct relations with China at the expense of Taiwan. South Korean President Kim Young Sam congratulated him and said he hoped a joint peace plan for North Korea would prove successful.

Indonesian President Suharto said he hoped Mr. Clinton's win would lead to greater economic cooperation between the United States and Asia, according to State Secretary Murtidono.

Vietnam gave a politely diplomatic welcome to the reelection: A statement from the foreign ministry said that Vietnam "wished that relations of cooperation between the countries would continue to develop."

Philippines President Fidel Ramos said the reelection would ensure continuity in bilateral ties. Washington is the country's top trading partner and aid donor.

Thai Prime Minister Banham Silpa Archua said "Thailand attaches great importance to her relationship with the United States."

Settlers claim approval for huge agriculture scheme near Hebron

YATIR, the West Bank (AFP) — Jewish settlers claimed Wednesday that the government had given them permission to take over a vast tract of land near Hebron to prevent Palestinians from gaining control of the area.

Ron Shekner, chairman of the Hebron region's settler council, said four mobile homes had already been set up with official approval at the site of the planned project about 1.5 kilometres east of this settlement on the southern edge of the West Bank.

He told Israel Radio that two families were living in the caravans and had begun preparations to fence in several hundred hectares to provide pasture for raising livestock.

"The project is aimed at preventing the Palestinians from getting control of this region," Mr. Shekner said.

He said the right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu quietly gave the green light for the new settlement shortly after coming to power in June.

"Two weeks after the new government arrived we received permission from the military to set up the new mobile homes," he said, adding that the previous labour government had rejected their requests to begin the project "for political reasons."

Mr. Netanyahu announced in August that he was lifting a freeze on settlement activity imposed in 1992 by the Labour government to facilitate its peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

But the prime minister said his decision concerned only expanding existing settlements and not creating new Jewish communities in the Palestinian areas.

He put the defence ministry in charge of approving expansion proposals and so far new home building has been authorised only in the Jerusalem area and in major settlement blocs along the green line separating Israel and the West Bank.

Majority against violence

Three-quarters of Israelis are opposed to violent resistance by Jewish settlers if the government decides to remove their settlements from the west bank and Gaza Strip, a poll published Wednesday said.

Seventy-five per cent of those polled opposed settler action against the Israeli army in the case of removal of the settlements, while 20 per cent were in favour, said the survey conducted by Tel Aviv University.

But 72 per cent said they expected settlers would turn to violence if the government ordered them out of

the Palestinian territories.

A majority of 57 per cent said they favored a final peace accord with the Palestinians which removes Jewish settlements located within Arab populations but maintains most of the 140,000 Jewish settlers in their current place under Israeli authority.

The poll, published in the Israeli Daily Haaretz, was conducted with 500 Israeli Jews, with a margin of error of four per cent.

Jewish radicals have threatened to attack Palestinians in a bid to torpedo the planned Israeli army withdrawal from of Hebron.

Pregnant woman held

Israeli soldiers arrested a pregnant Palestinian woman in the West Bank town of Hebron on Tuesday, leaving neighbours to care for her nine children, Palestinians said.

They said five-month pregnant Monowwar Zaro was hauled off by the Israeli troops after they broke into her house and found an old rifle. Neighbours said when they tried to persuade the soldiers to release Zaro they were told she would be released once her husband turned himself in.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday addresses a gathering at the Arab Potash Company plant on the Dead Sea on the occasion of a visit there by Israeli President Ezer Weizman and his wife accompanied by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor (Petra photo)

Israeli president pays successful visit to Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

Islamic Jihad group, had to seek the "influence" of Syria and "could be Tehran too, to stop a scare of 78 hours of a carbombing."

Answering a question on his recent contacts with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, King Hussein said that his feeling was that the Syrian leadership had a "genuine commitment to peace."

"There cannot be peace without Syria," he said, adding: "They (Syrian) leaders have made it quite clear they are looking for an honourable peace."

Mr. Weizman, who has the authority to pardon prisoners, told the press conference he would study the status of Jordanians imprisoned in Israel. At least 17 Jordanians convicted by Israeli courts of involvement in killings and kidnapping of Israelis remain in the prisons of the Jewish

state. Eighteen others were released in three phases after the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan in 1994.

"It is not a nice question..." said Mr. Weizman when asked how far he thought Mr. Netanyahu was responsible for what many Jordanians feel as the absence of dividends of peace that were expected when the Labour-led government of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres was in power in Israel.

Acknowledging that expectations and optimism were high when the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty was signed and now there was "a feeling of disappointment," Mr. Weizman said he hoped that "the atmosphere two years ago will be reestablished."

At the same time, he said, the achievements in terms of Jordanian-Israeli economic cooperation so far should not be overlooked.

That appeared to set the tone for the Israeli president's visit later in the day to the Arab Potash Company (APC) on the Dead Sea, where Jordan and Israel have launched a \$90 million joint venture to produce bromine.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor accompanied President Weizman and his wife on the visit to the APC.

They were received there by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, senior officials from the southern region and APC Director General Suleiman Hawari.

In a short speech on the occasion, the Crown Prince referred to joint Jordanian-Israeli plans to develop the Jordan Rift Valley.

"The sooner the Jordan Rift Valley is seen as an international investment

during peace, between not only Jordan and Israel but between all from the north to the south of the valley, the sooner that vision of tourism, agriculture, energy, telecommunications... is realised, the sooner this region will be placed on the international map," said the Crown Prince.

"Today, we meet in the Jordan Rift Valley, close to the Dead Sea, the sea of life, and we meet in the context of shared potentials to speak of our shared commitment to turning this valley into a valley of hope, development and prosperity for all our peoples," said the Crown Prince.

Mr. Hawari stressed the need to enhance Jordanian-Israeli cooperation in exploiting Dead Sea minerals through joint projects.

President Weizman, his wife and a delegation accompanying them flew home later in the day.

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Republican control will ensure at least two more years of divided government and give Republicans chairmanship of committees with the power to legislate as well as to investigate Mr. Clinton and his administration for alleged campaign and other abuses.

Democratic control of one chamber of Congress would have relieved Mr. Clinton of the need to use his veto to block legislation he didn't like. A Democratic-controlled chamber would simply stop it.

In contrast to the 1994 elections that gave the Republicans a majority in Congress, this election was marked by relative calm among voters. The anti-Washington terror of two years ago was gone — replaced by satisfaction with a steady economic growth rate.

"We're going to keep the Senate, we're going to keep the House," said Mr. Dole.

Mr. Clinton was hampered

perity far above the character issues and tax-cut promises Mr. Dole pushed.

ABC News reported 58 per cent of those leaving the polls rated the economy in good shape. That compared with only 19 per cent four years ago, when Mr. Clinton ousted Republican George Bush by hammering at discontent with a weak economy.

It was the first time in 66 years that Republicans won back-to-back majorities in the House.

There were 34 Senate races out of 100 seats in all. Democrats had needed to gain three seats to forge a tie with the Republicans and four to topple the Republican majority outright.

All 435 House members were up for reelection, and Democrats had needed a net gain of 18 to take control again after two years.

Winners included Republican senators Strom Thurmond and Jesse Helms, Democratic senators Joe Biden and John Kerry, and Democratic congressman Bob Torricelli, who goes to the Senate.

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Auction of Gandhi papers shelved

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Mahatma Gandhi's former secretary has cancelled plans to auction 450 documents handwritten by the hero of India's independence struggle.

newspapers said Wednesday. Venkataram Kalyanam urged Phillips International auctioneers to shelve the Nov. 14 auction in London following extensive discussions with veteran Indian journalist N. Ram, the reports said.

The Asian Age quoted Mr. Kalyanam, 75, as saying his talk with Mr. Ram included "what I would be prepared to do to amicably resolve the controversy raging over the future of the Gandhi papers."

Mr. Kalyanam, who lives in Madras, had hoped to raise \$1.6 million from the auction of the documents. He had previously rejected pleas from Gandhi admirers not to go ahead with the auction. The Gandhi group had argued the sale would be an irreparable loss for the country, while Mr. Kalyanam had said he could not renege on a promise to donate the proceeds of the sale to build a Hindu temple in Hawaii.

He said if New Delhi had wanted the collection — comprising letters written to Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last viceroy of India, and to Pakistan's first prime minister Mohammmad Ali Jinnah — it could have bid for them. Gandhi, revered in India as the "father of the nation" for his pioneering non-violent movement for independence from British colonial rule, was assassinated by a Hindu fanatic in 1948.

Smokers get guide on where to light up

LONDON (R) — A British smokers' rights group launched what it claimed was the world's first travel guide for smokers. The 224-page book, "Smoking in London," gives advice to nicotine-loving Londoners on where to find the most smoker-friendly pubs, restaurants, cinemas and even health clubs in the capital.

Brazilian cuts off boyfriend's penis

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A 17-year-old Brazilian girl cut off her boyfriend's penis with a kitchen knife during a lover's tiff at a hotel, a police spokesman said. He said Joyce Tracy Gomes Savitch mutilated her 27-year-old boyfriend, Joao Carlos Mario Faria, because he cheated on her. The couple had spent the night at a hotel on the outskirts of Victoria in Espirito Santo state when the argument broke out. Faria was flown to a hospital in Sao Paulo two hours after the incident and is said to have a good chance of having his penis reattached, according to private television Globo News.

Woman priest shrugs off criticism

ROME (R) — The first Anglican woman to be ordained priest in Rome brushed aside possible criticism from the Roman Catholic Church and said she only wanted to serve God and be a good wife, mother and grandmother. "I don't think I have done anything that hurts anyone," Cecilia Monge Teran de Eraso told Reuters in an interview in her church, Saint Paul's Within-the-Walls, two days after being ordained an Anglican priest in the capital of Roman Catholicism. "In the same way that I respect them (Catholics), I deserve respect for my decision and the position I have now," she said.

The ordination of Monge, a soft-spoken 43-year-old Ecuadorian who converted from Catholicism in 1980, has unleashed a torrent of interest in Italy that she said had surprised her. The Vatican had no immediate comment on her ordination. But the Pope has made clear he views the Anglican communion's ordination of women priests as an

assault on the church's authority.

U.S. 'frie' — A meeting between U.S. and Iraqi diplomats from Turkey was postponed for a week, officials from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said. The KDP is a member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, a coalition of northern Iraqi groups expected to join on Monday to form a new government. Sources close to the KDP said the meeting was put off because the KDP was not given the go-ahead instructions from the coalition partners to make a decision. The six partners make up the monitoring group, which is expected to meet on Oct. 31 peace accords.

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